

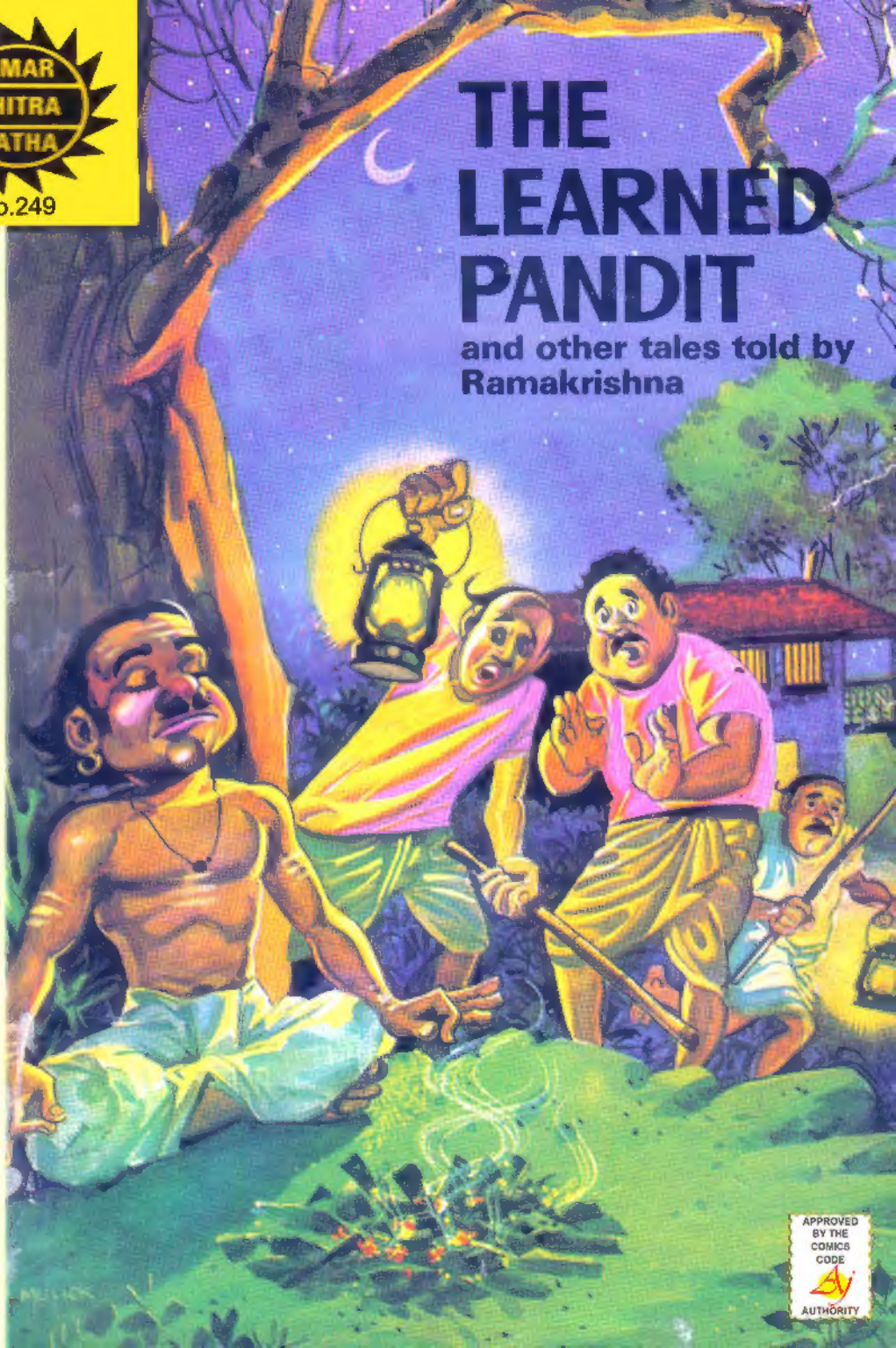


No.249

AMAR  
CHITRA  
KATHA

# THE LEARNED PANDIT

and other tales told by  
Ramakrishna



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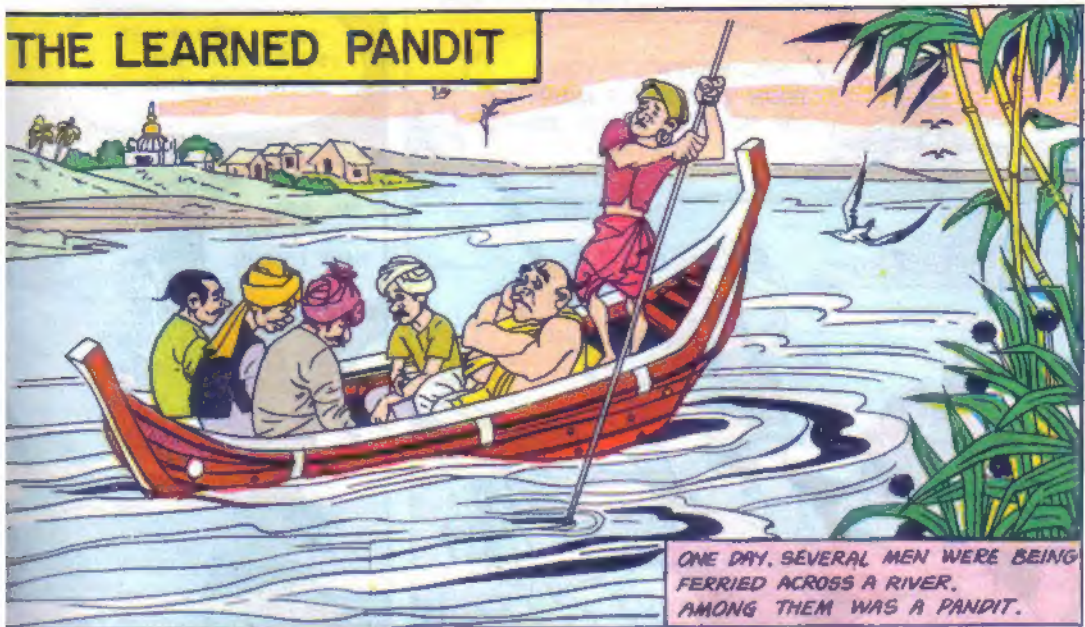
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# THE LEARNED PANDIT

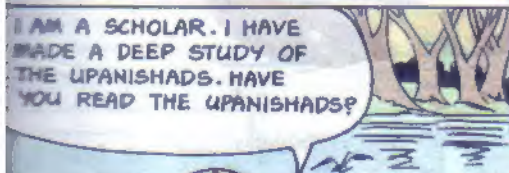


ONE DAY, SEVERAL MEN WERE BEING  
FERRIED ACROSS A RIVER.  
AMONG THEM WAS A PANDIT.

I'LL TALK TO ONE  
OF THESE FELLOWS.  
NOT THAT IT WILL  
BENEFIT ME IN ANY  
WAY BUT IT WILL  
AT LEAST HELP  
ME PASS THE  
TIME.

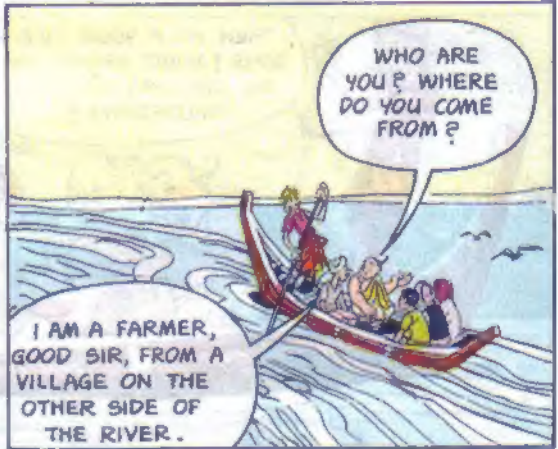


I AM A SCHOLAR. I HAVE  
MADE A DEEP STUDY OF  
THE UPANISHADS. HAVE  
YOU READ THE UPANISHADS?

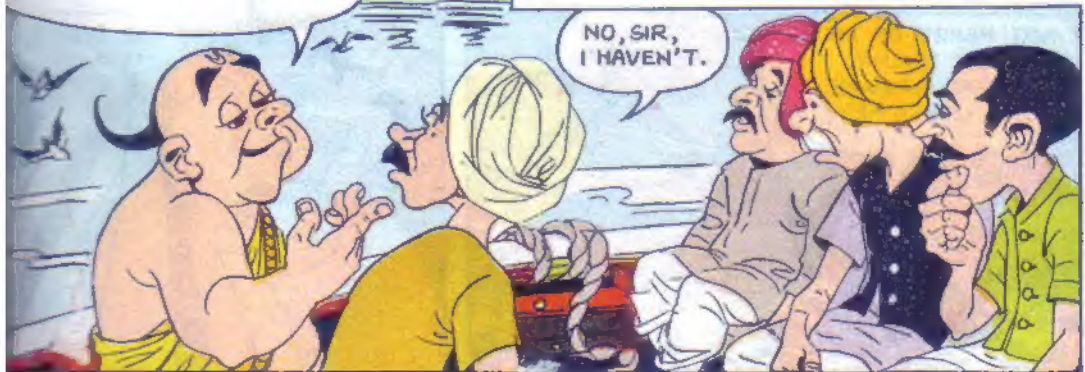


WHO ARE  
YOU? WHERE  
DO YOU COME  
FROM?

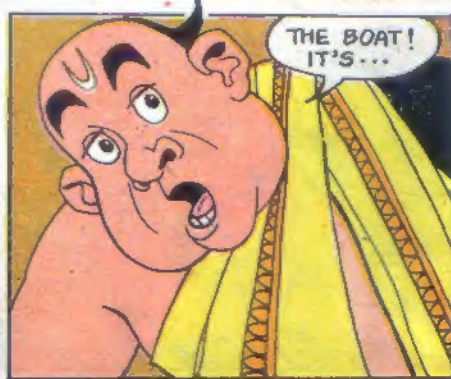
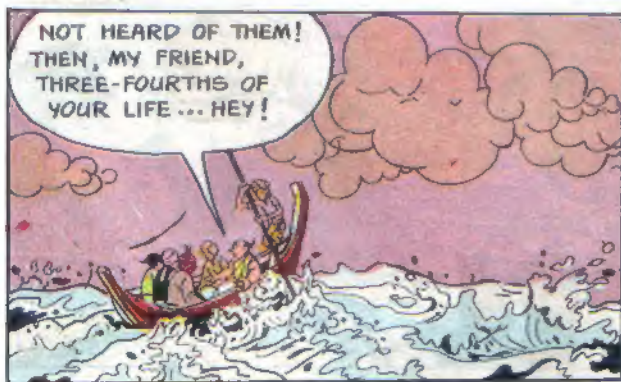
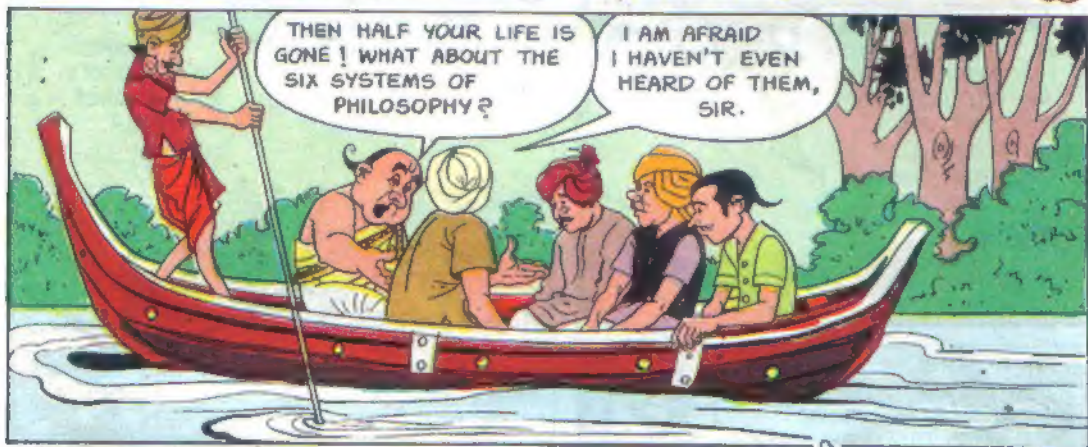
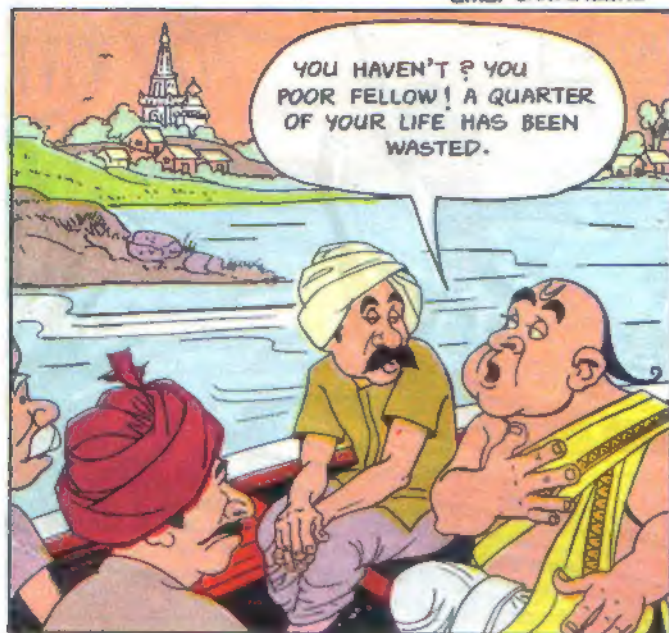
I AM A FARMER,  
GOOD SIR, FROM A  
VILLAGE ON THE  
OTHER SIDE OF  
THE RIVER.



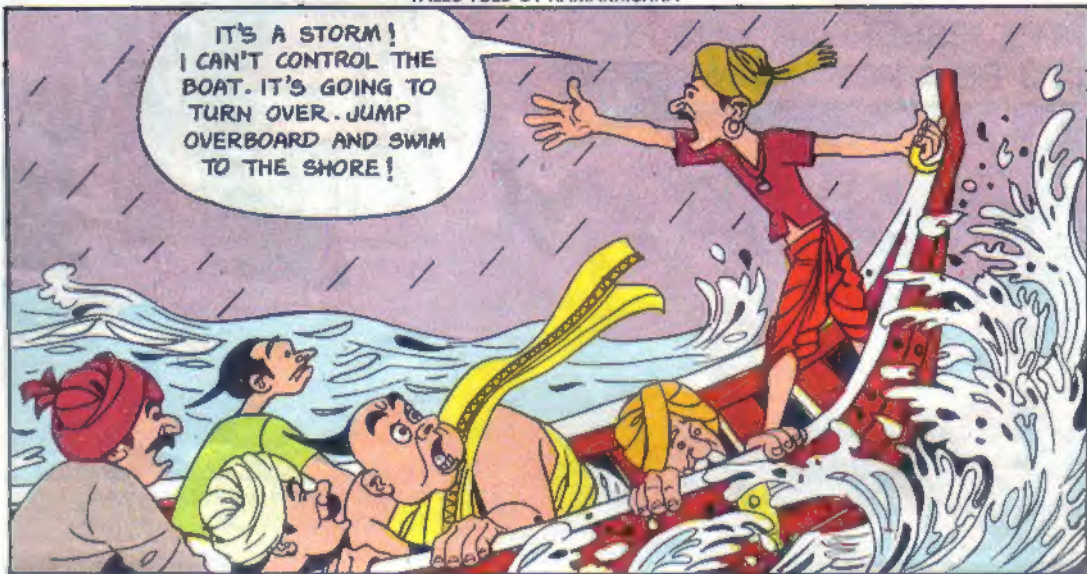
NO, SIR,  
I HAVEN'T.





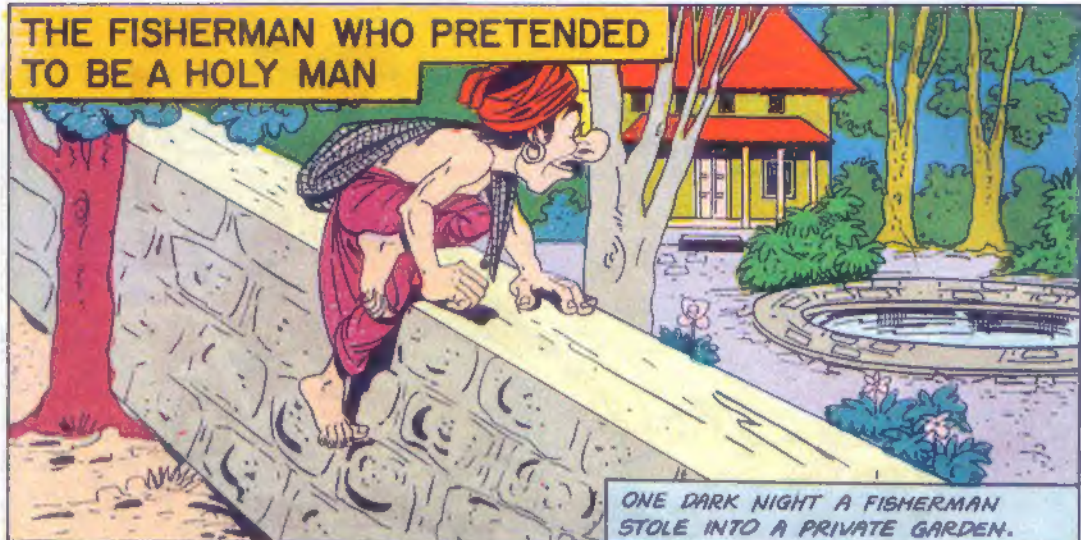




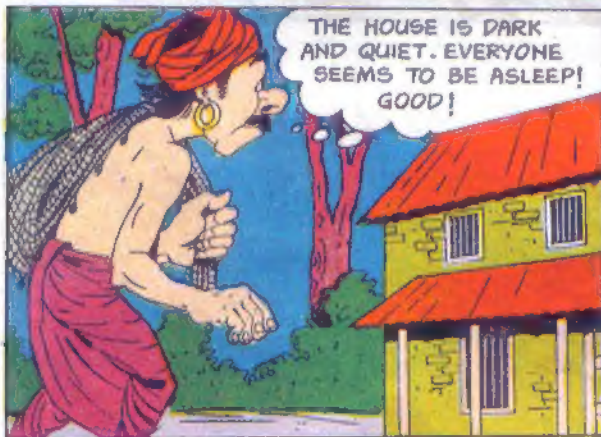




# THE FISHERMAN WHO PRETENDED TO BE A HOLY MAN



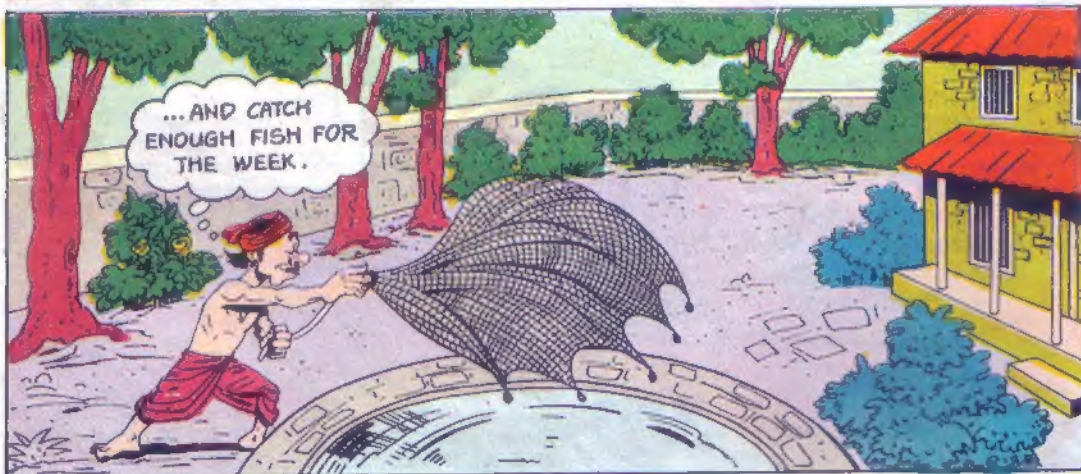
ONE DARK NIGHT A FISHERMAN STOLE INTO A PRIVATE GARDEN.



THE HOUSE IS DARK AND QUIET. EVERYONE SEEMS TO BE ASLEEP! GOOD!



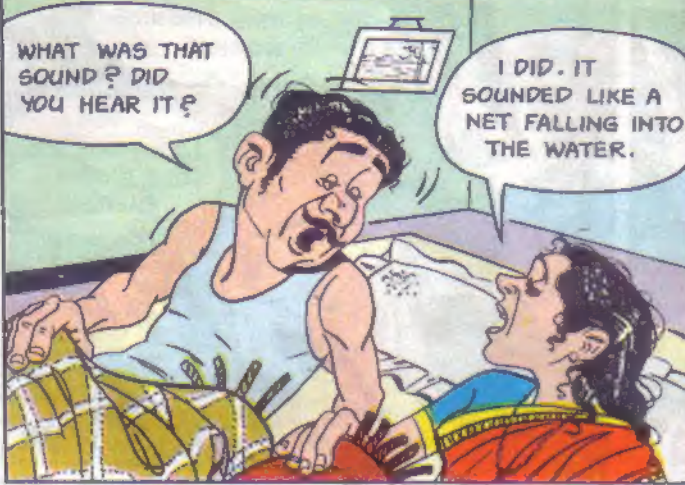
I CAN CAST MY NET RIGHT AWAY...



...AND CATCH ENOUGH FISH FOR THE WEEK.



BUT EVEN AS THE NET WAS CAST —



WHAT WAS THAT  
SOUND ? DID  
YOU HEAR IT ?

I DID. IT  
SOUNDED LIKE A  
NET FALLING INTO  
THE WATER.

A NET ? IN THE  
WATER ? THE POND ! MY  
FISH ! SOMEBODY'S STEAL-  
ING MY FISH ! THIEF!  
THIEF!

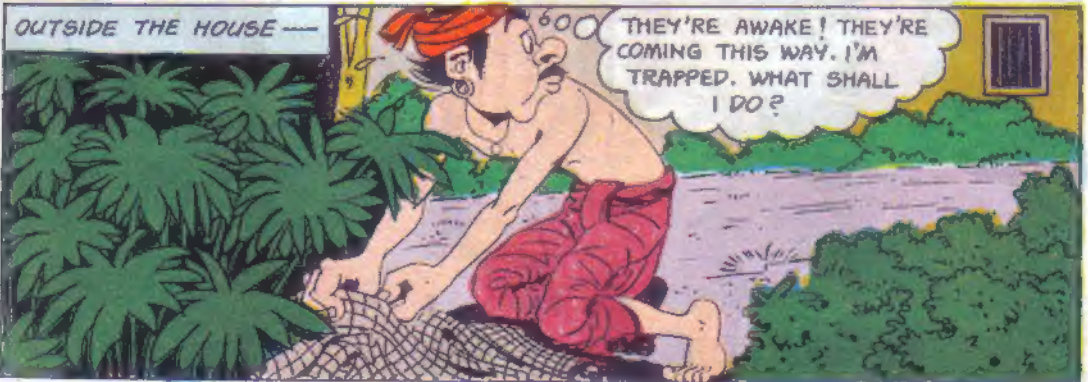


THE OWNER WOKE UP HIS SERVANTS.



QUICK! IT'S  
A THIEF!  
CATCH HIM!

OUTSIDE THE HOUSE —



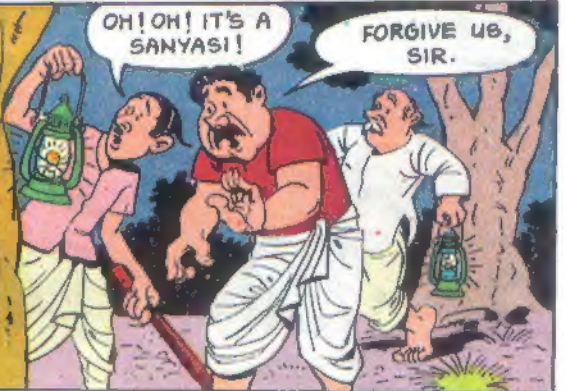
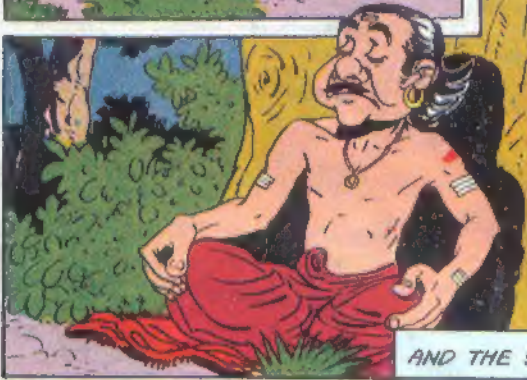
THEY'RE AWAKE ! THEY'RE  
COMING THIS WAY. I'M  
TRAPPED. WHAT SHALL  
I DO ?



AS HE LOOKED DESPERATELY ABOUT,  
SOMETHING CAUGHT HIS EYE.



HE PULLED OFF HIS TURBAN AND SMEARED SOME  
ASH ON HIS ARMS AND FOREHEAD.

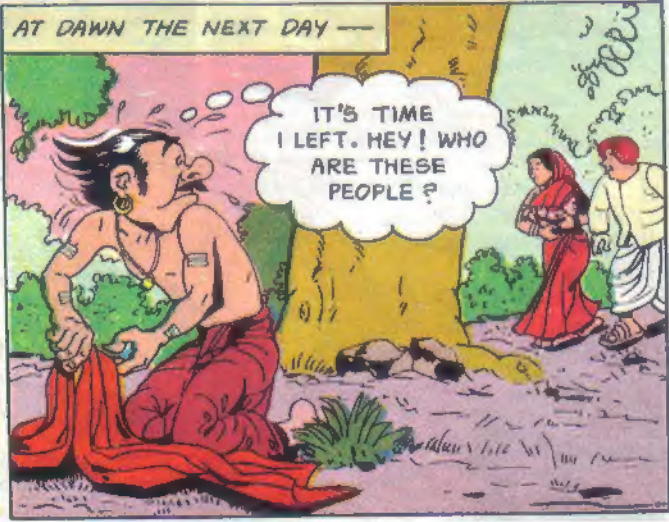
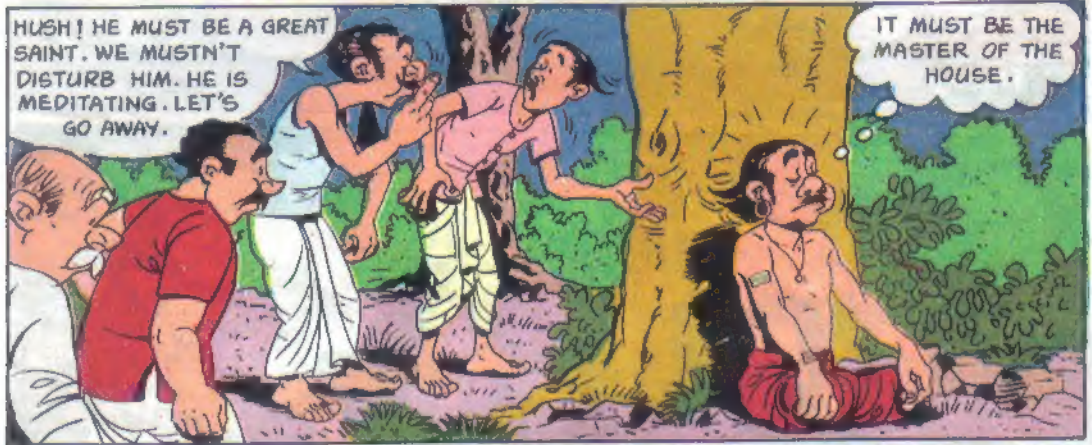
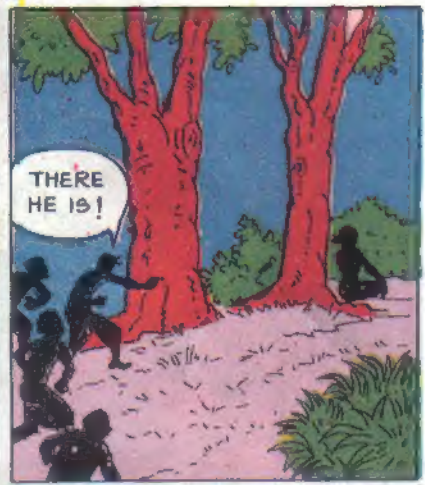
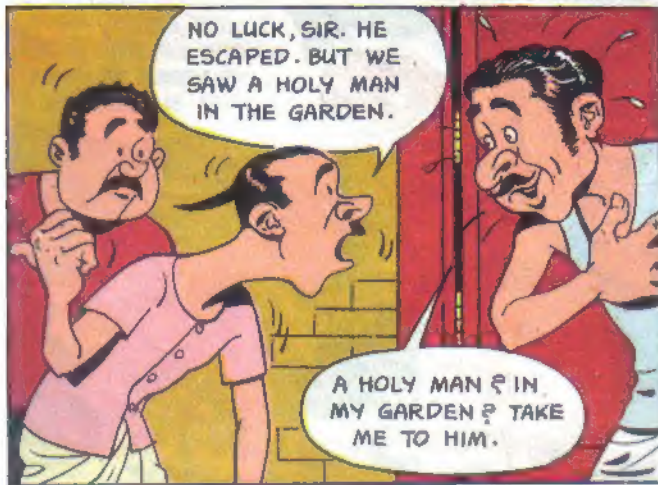


AND THE SERVANTS CONTINUED THEIR SEARCH.

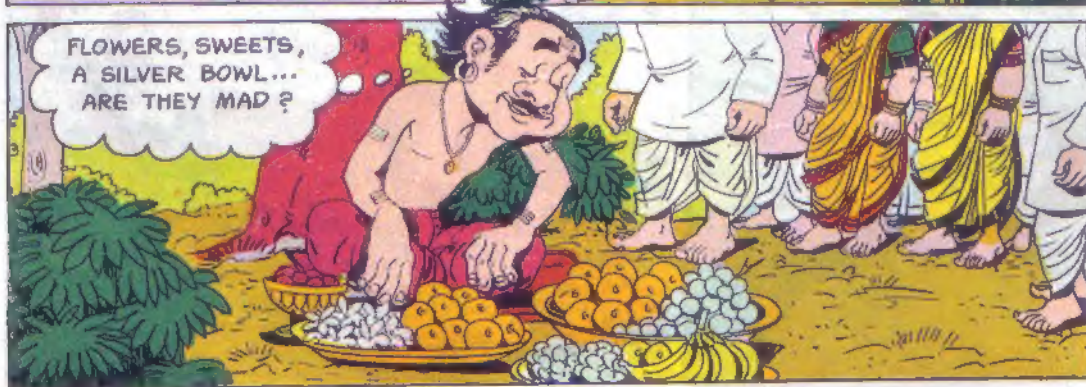
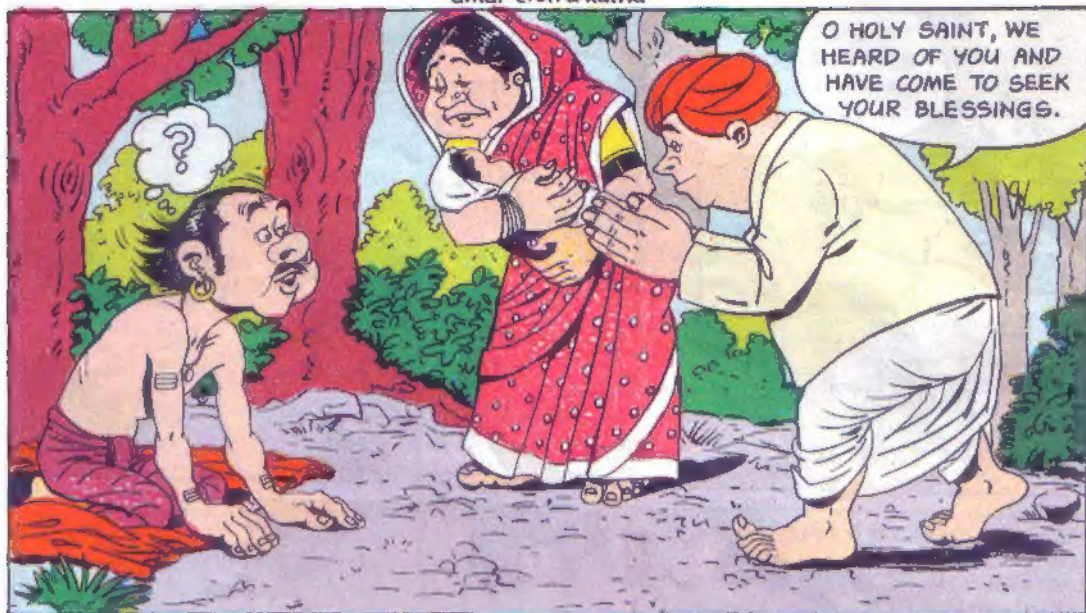
AFTER A WHILE, THEY CAME BACK TO THEIR MASTER.



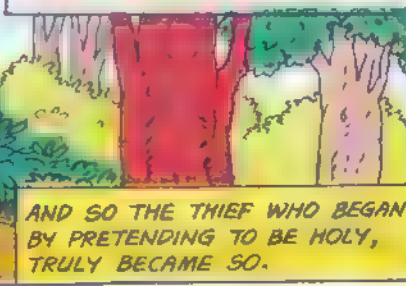
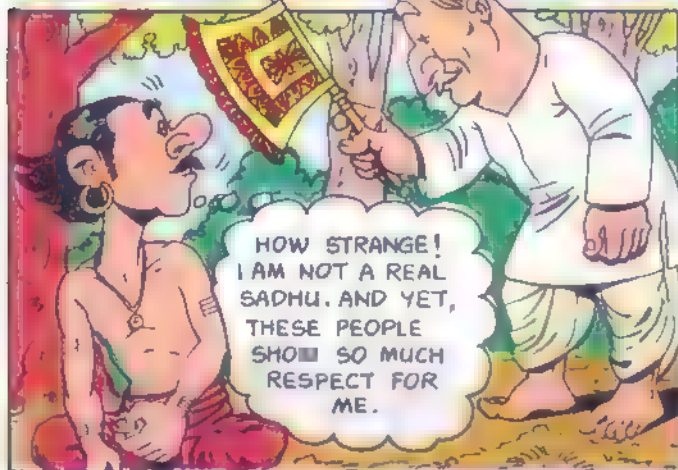






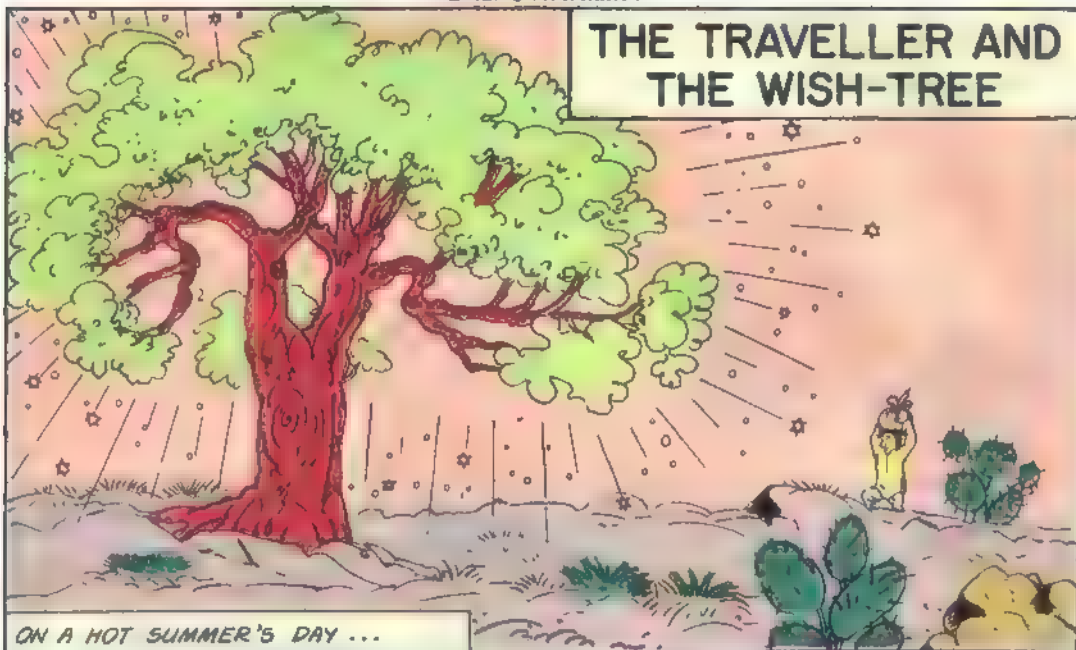








# THE TRAVELLER AND THE WISH-TREE



ON A HOT SUMMER'S DAY ...

... A TRAVELLER STOPPED UNDER A SHADY TREE.

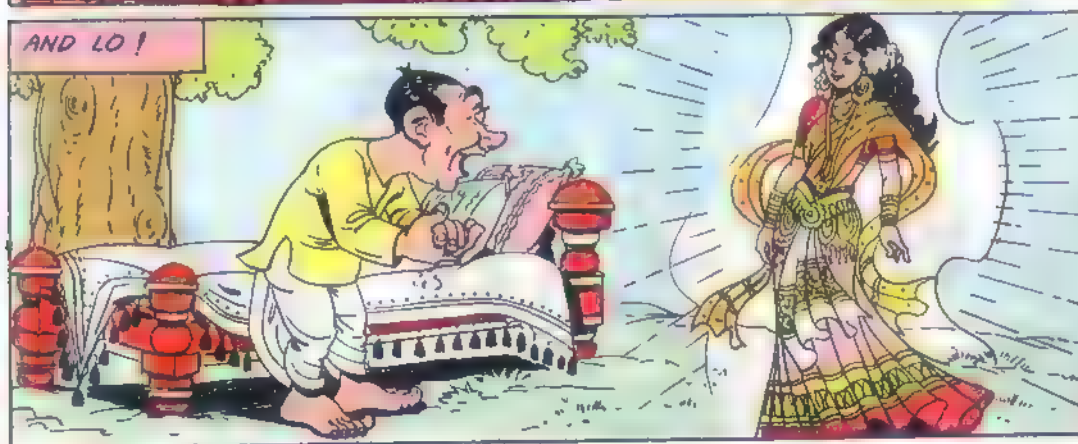
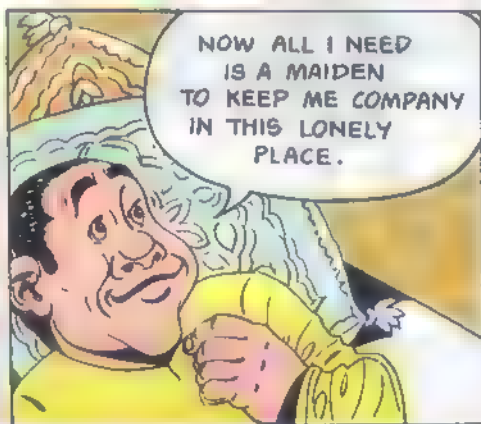
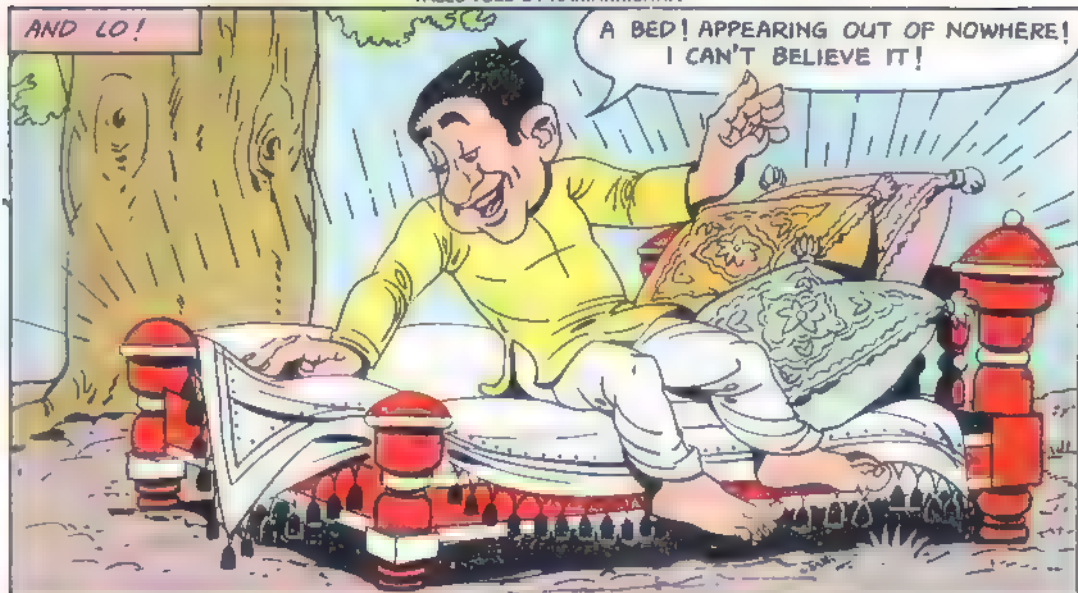
PHEW ! THE HEAT IS UNBEARABLE ! I'LL REST HERE FOR A WHILE.



LITTLE DID HE REALISE THAT THE TREE WAS A SPECIAL ONE.

AH ! THIS IS GOOD ! BUT HOW MUCH BETTER IT WOULD BE, IF I HAD A SOFT BED TO SLEEP ON.





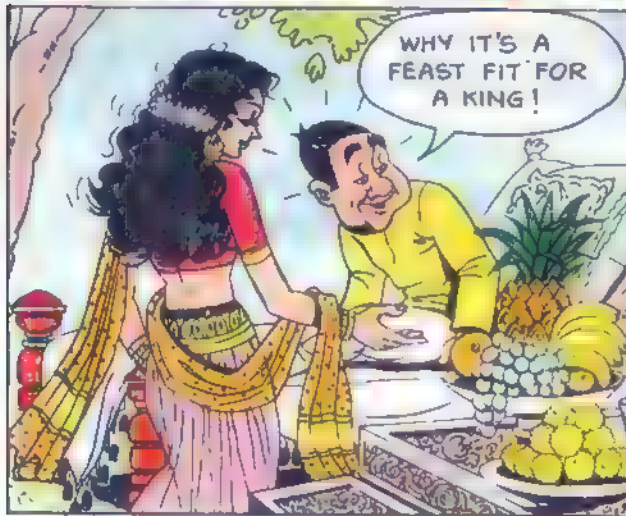
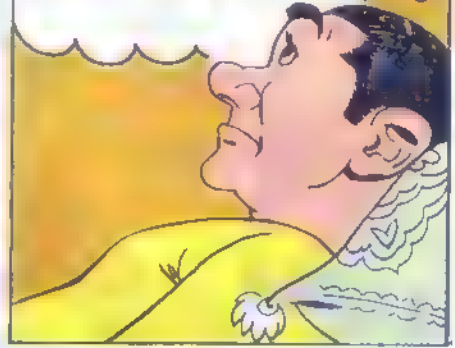




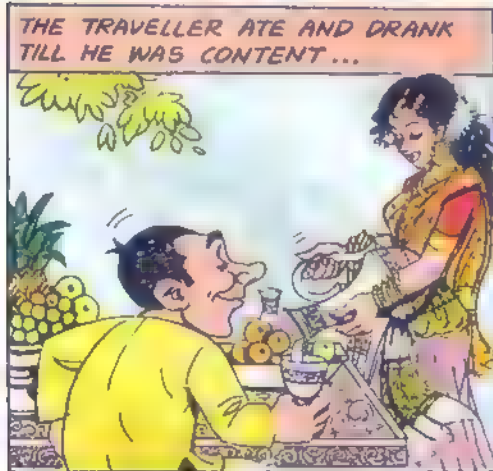
TODAY IS TRULY  
MY LUCKY DAY.

SOON —

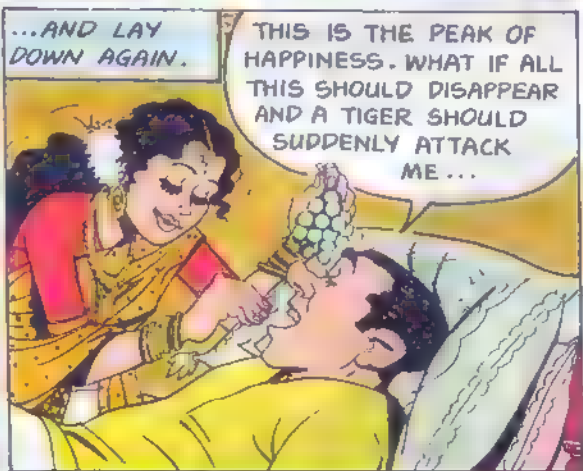
I COULDN'T HAVE HAD  
A LOVELIER COMPANION!  
BUT MY STOMACH IS  
GROWLING. I AM HUNGRY.  
IF ONLY I HAD SOME  
GOOD FOOD TO EAT!



WHY IT'S A  
FEAST FIT FOR  
A KING!



THE TRAVELLER ATE AND DRANK  
TILL HE WAS CONTENT...



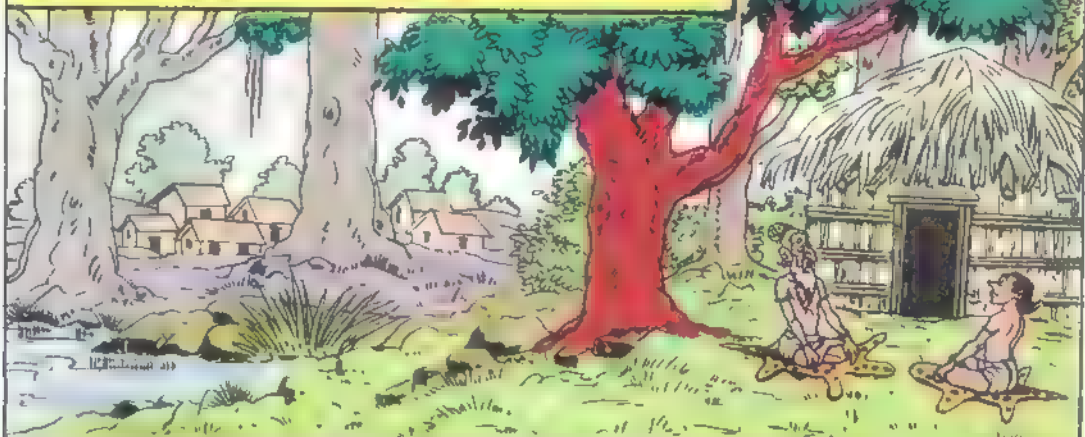
...AND LAY  
DOWN AGAIN.

THIS IS THE PEAK OF  
HAPPINESS. WHAT IF ALL  
THIS SHOULD DISAPPEAR  
AND A TIGER SHOULD  
SUDDENLY ATTACK  
ME...





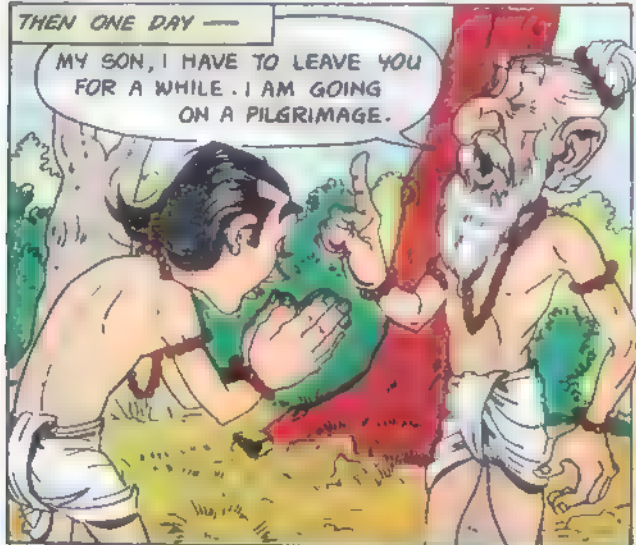
# THE ASCETIC AND HIS LOIN-CLOTH



IN A FOREST NEAR A VILLAGE THERE LIVED A GURU AND HIS DISCIPLE WHO SPENT ALL THEIR TIME IN PRAYER AND MEDITATION.

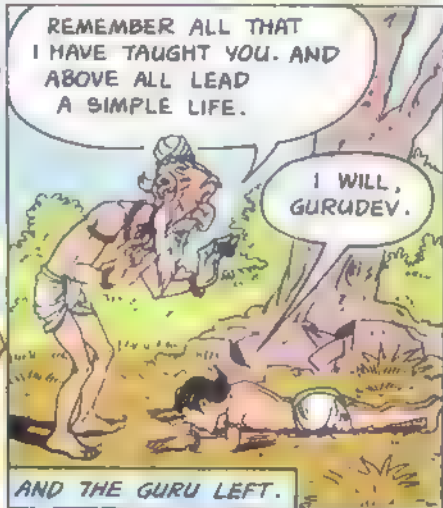
THEN ONE DAY —

MY SON, I HAVE TO LEAVE YOU FOR A WHILE. I AM GOING ON A PILGRIMAGE.



REMEMBER ALL THAT I HAVE TAUGHT YOU. AND ABOVE ALL LEAD A SIMPLE LIFE.

I WILL, GURUDEV.



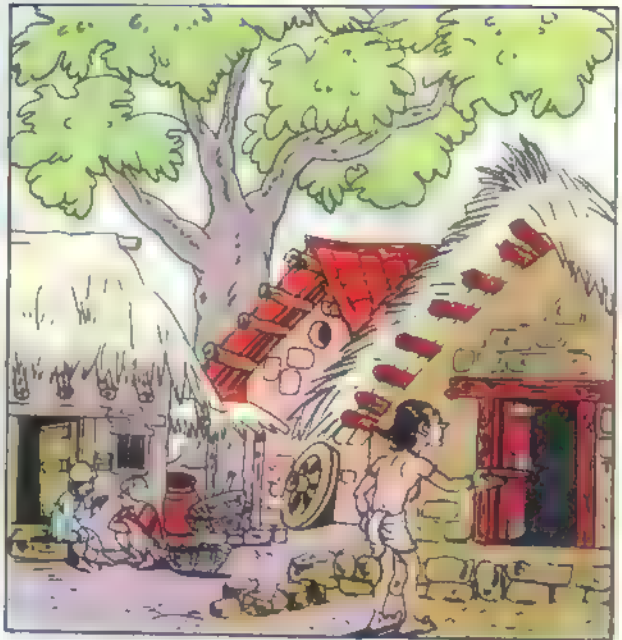
AND THE GURU LEFT.

ONE MORNING, AS USUAL, THE ASCETIC WASHED HIS SPARE LOIN-CLOTH...



...AND HUNG IT OUT  
TO DRY.

I WILL NOW GO  
TO THE VILLAGE  
TO BEG FOR  
ALMS.

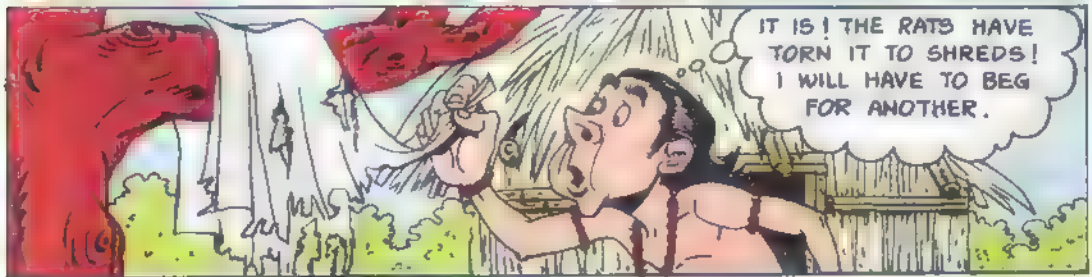


MAY GOD BLESS  
YOU FOR YOUR  
KINDNESS.

LATER, WHEN THE ASCETIC  
RETURNED TO HIS HUT —



HEY! THAT LOOKS  
LIKE A PIECE OF  
MY LOIN-CLOTH.



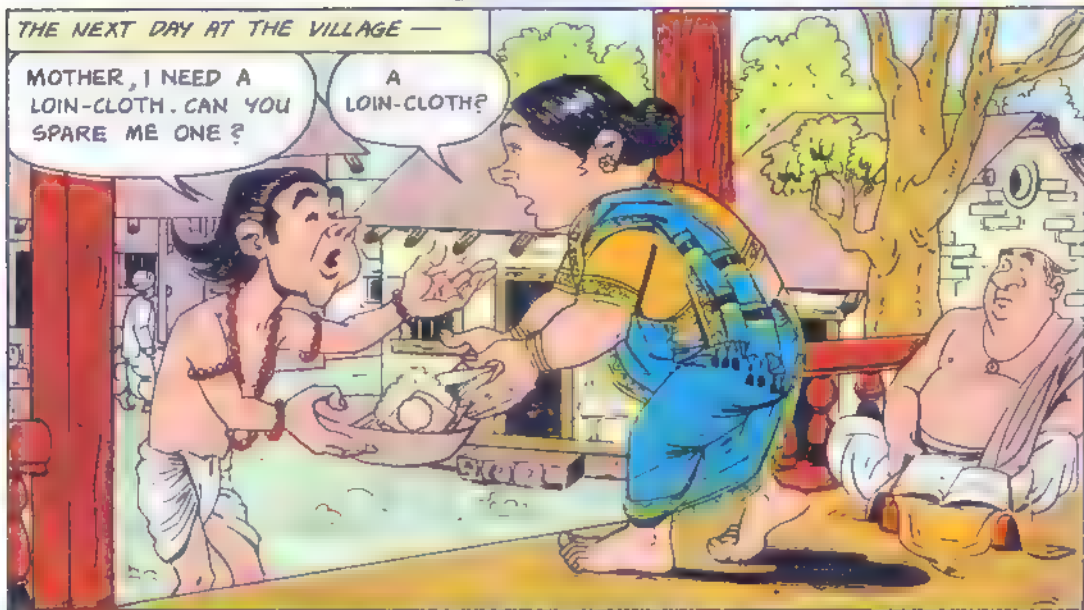
IT IS! THE RATS HAVE  
TORN IT TO SHREDS!  
I WILL HAVE TO BEG  
FOR ANOTHER.



THE NEXT DAY AT THE VILLAGE —

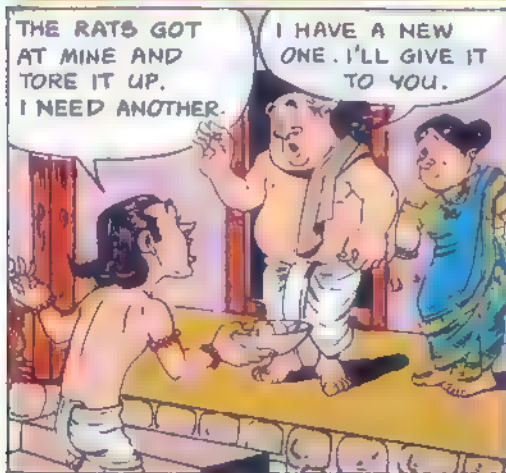
MOTHER, I NEED A LOIN-CLOTH. CAN YOU SPARE ME ONE ?

A LOIN-CLOTH?



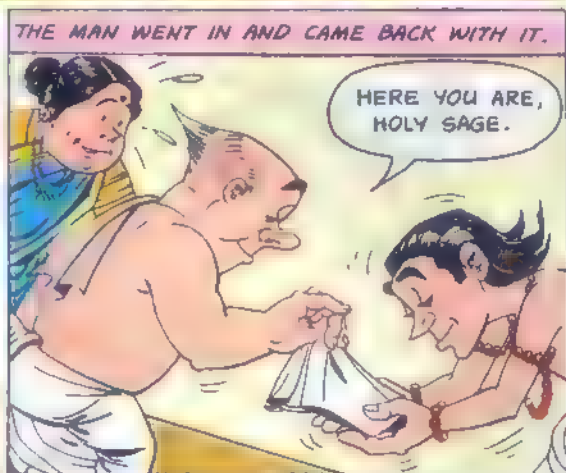
THE RATS GOT AT MINE AND TORE IT UP. I NEED ANOTHER.

I HAVE A NEW ONE. I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU.



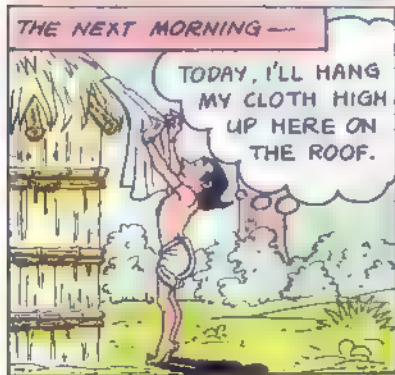
THE MAN WENT IN AND CAME BACK WITH IT.

HERE YOU ARE, HOLY SAGE.



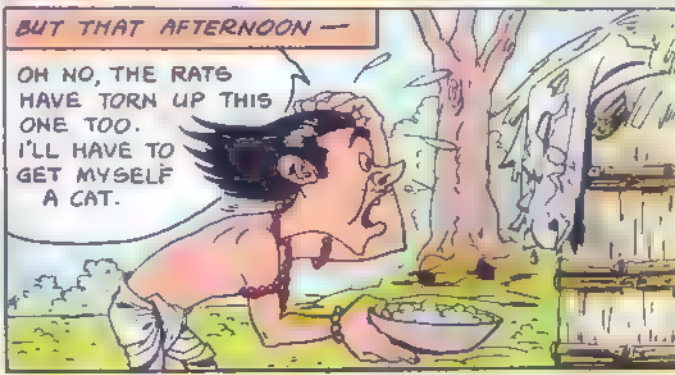
THE NEXT MORNING —

TODAY, I'LL HANG MY CLOTH HIGH UP HERE ON THE ROOF.



BUT THAT AFTERNOON —

OH NO, THE RATS HAVE TORN UP THIS ONE TOO. I'LL HAVE TO GET MYSELF A CAT.



SO THE ASCETIC GOT HIMSELF A CAT...

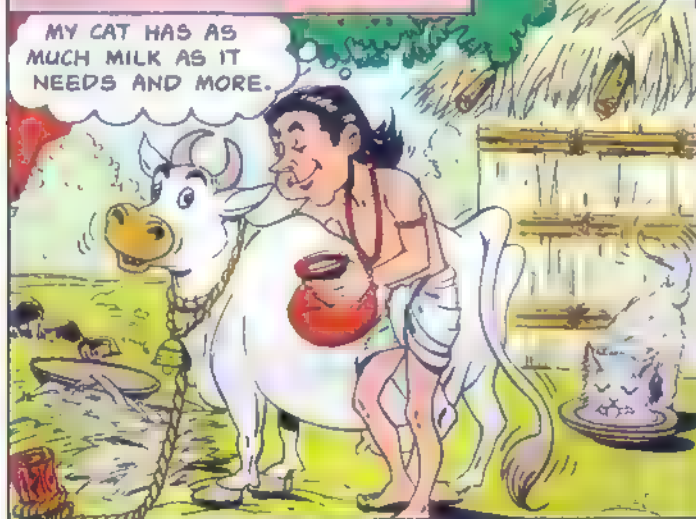


...AND SOON, THE RATS STOPPED TROUBLING HIM.



AND SO HE GOT HIMSELF A COW.

MY CAT HAS AS MUCH MILK AS IT NEEDS AND MORE.



BUT I NEED STRAW TO FEED MY COW. HOW SHALL I GO ABOUT GETTING THAT?

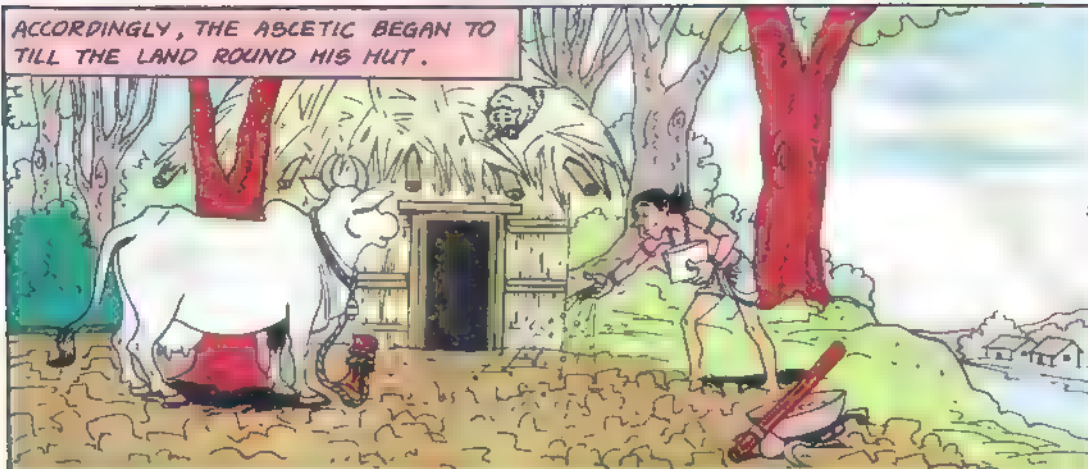


I COULD CULTIVATE THE LAND AROUND MY HUT. AND WHEN THE GRAIN IS HARVESTED I'LL HAVE ALL THE STRAW MY COW WOULD NEED.





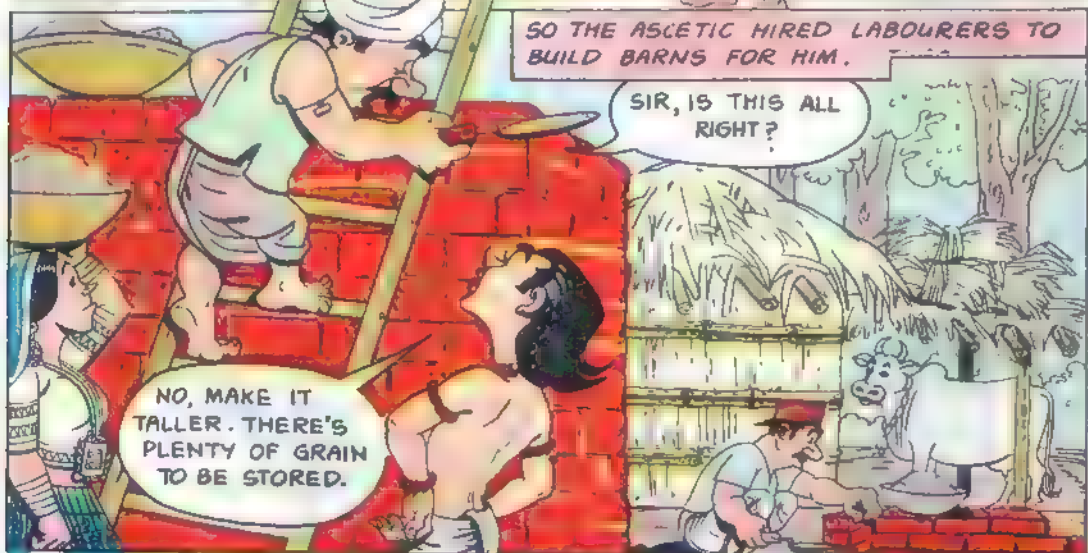
ACCORDINGLY, THE ASCETIC BEGAN TO TILL THE LAND ROUND HIS HUT.



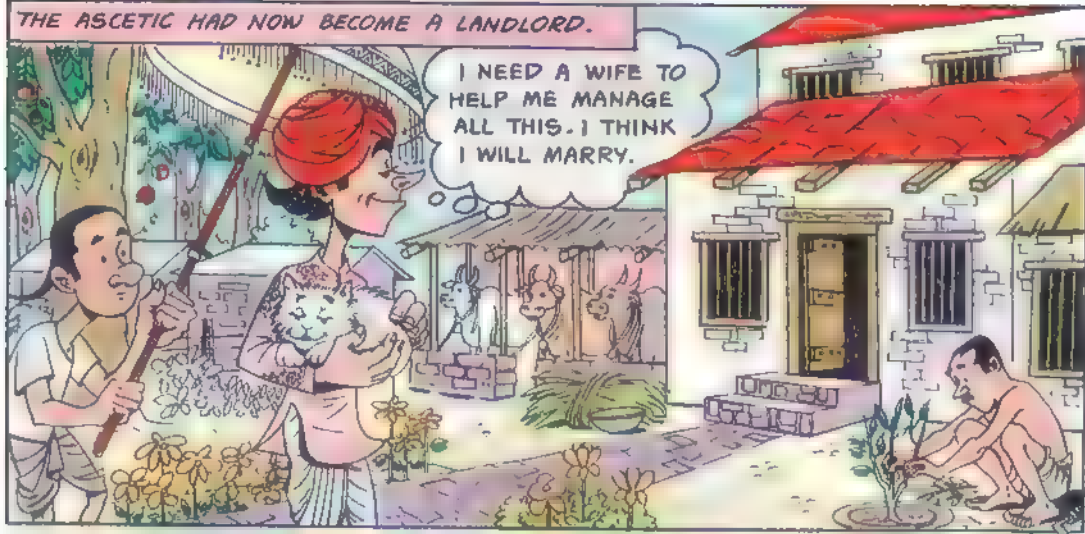
SOON —



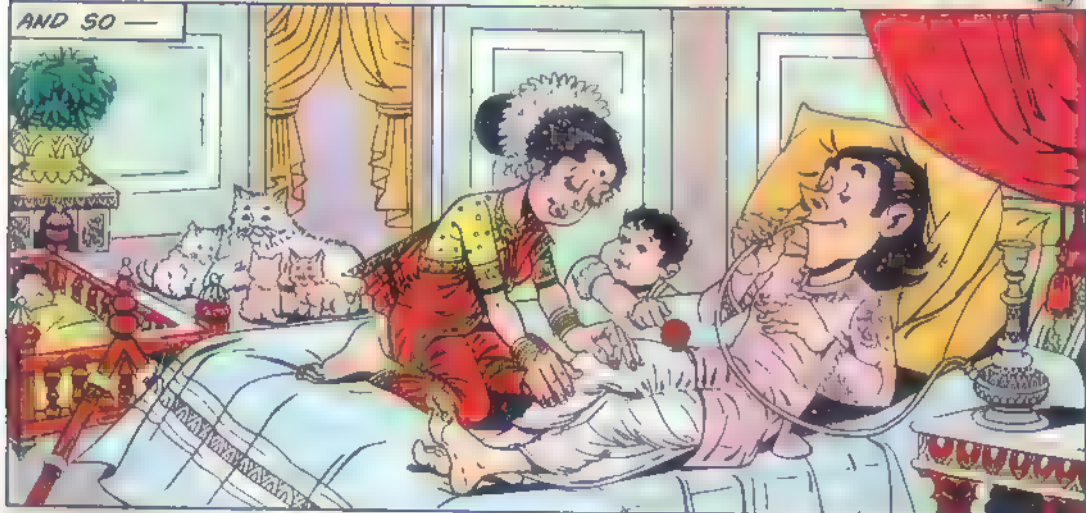
SO THE ASCETIC HIRED LABOURERS TO BUILD BARNs FOR HIM.



THE ASCETIC HAD NOW BECOME A LANDLORD.



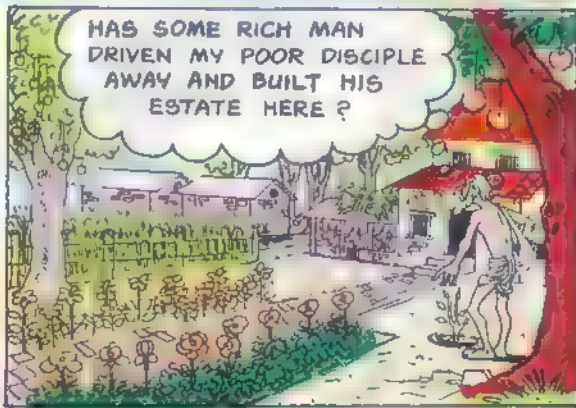
AND SO —



ONE FINE DAY, THE GURU RETURNED FROM HIS PILGRIMAGE.



HAS SOME RICH MAN  
DRIVEN MY POOR DISCIPLE  
AWAY AND BUILT HIS  
ESTATE HERE ?





WHEN A SERVANT CAME OUT OF THE HOUSE, THE GURU WENT UP TO HIM.

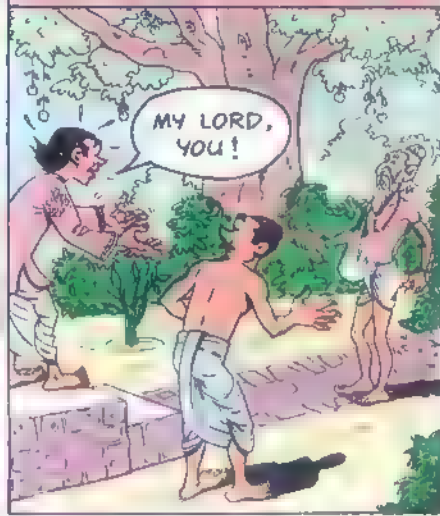
MY GOOD MAN, AN ASCETIC USED TO LIVE HERE ONCE. DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS NOW?

ER... I... HE...



JUST THEN, THE SERVANT'S MASTER HIMSELF CAME OUT.

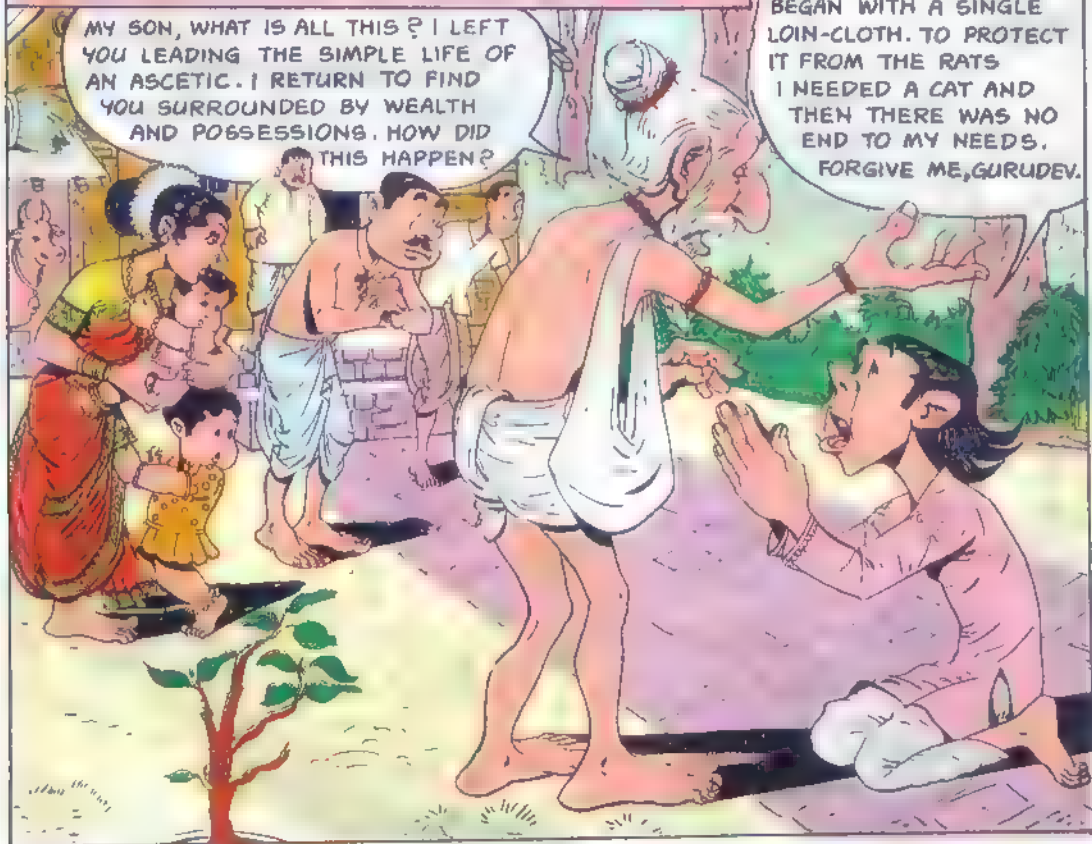
MY LORD, YOU!



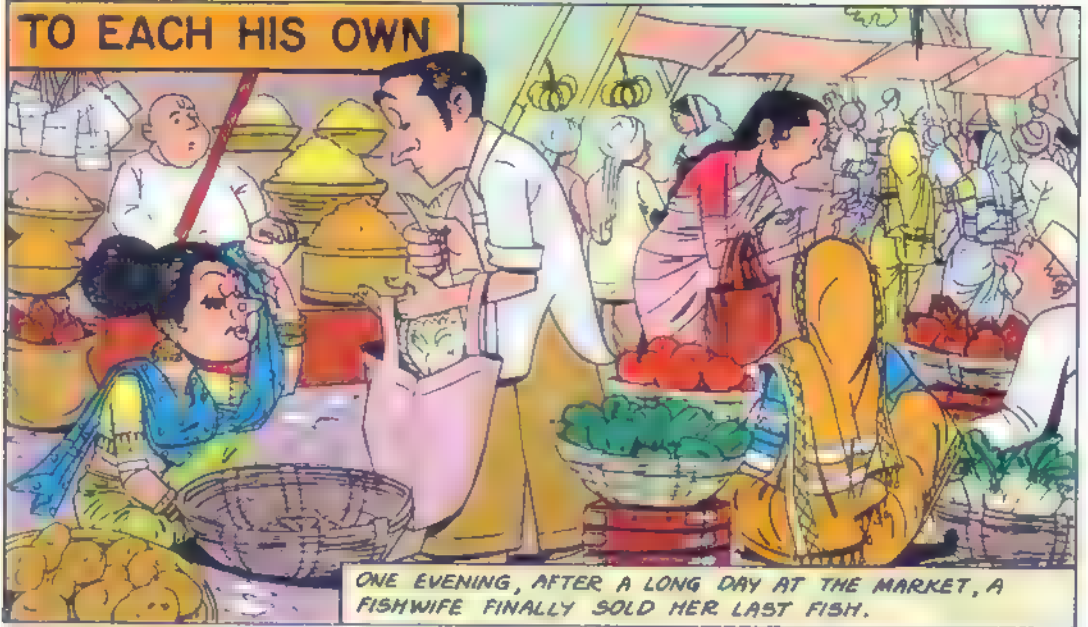
HE RUSHED FORWARD AND FELL AT HIS GURU'S FEET.

MY SON, WHAT IS ALL THIS? I LEFT YOU LEADING THE SIMPLE LIFE OF AN ASCETIC. I RETURN TO FIND YOU SURROUNDED BY WEALTH AND POSSESSIONS. HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

OH GURUDEV, IT ALL BEGAN WITH A SINGLE LOIN-CLOTH. TO PROTECT IT FROM THE RATS I NEEDED A CAT AND THEN THERE WAS NO END TO MY NEEDS. FORGIVE ME, GURUDEV.



# TO EACH HIS OWN

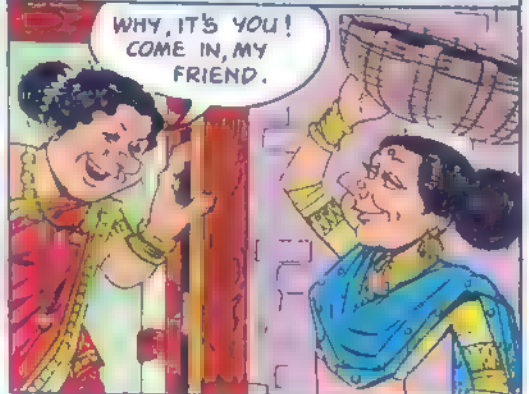


ONE EVENING, AFTER A LONG DAY AT THE MARKET, A FISHWIFE FINALLY SOLD HER LAST FISH.

ON HER WAY HOME, SHE STOPPED AT HER FRIEND'S HOUSE AND KNOCKED.



HER FRIEND, WHO WAS A FLOWER-GIRL, ANSWERED THE DOOR.



WHY, IT'S YOU!  
COME IN, MY  
FRIEND.

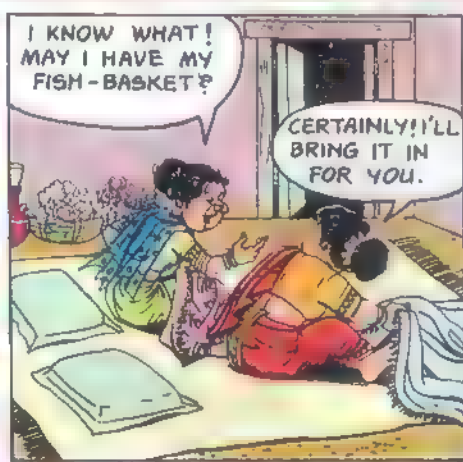
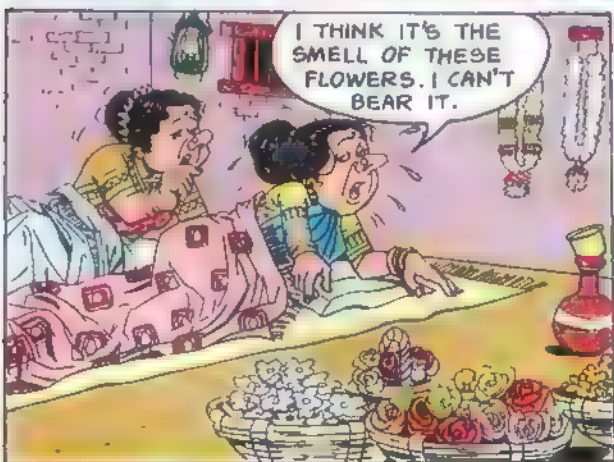
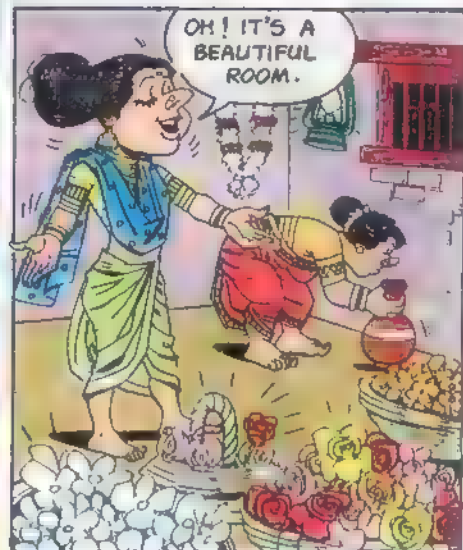
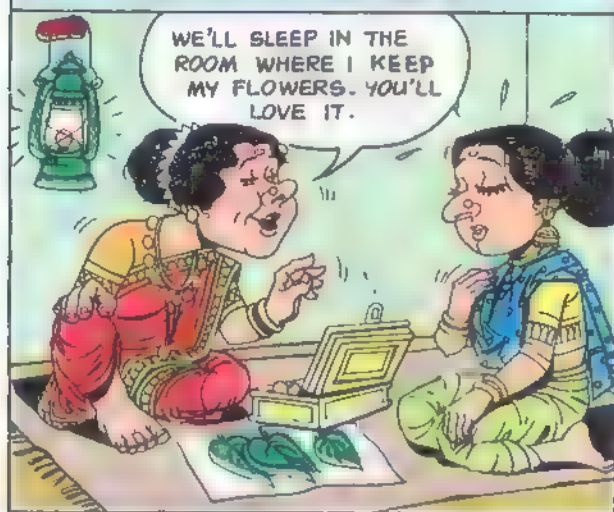
YOU MUST HAVE  
DINNER WITH ME AND  
SPEND THE NIGHT HERE.  
WE CAN HAVE A LONG  
CHAT.

ALL RIGHT, MY  
FRIEND.

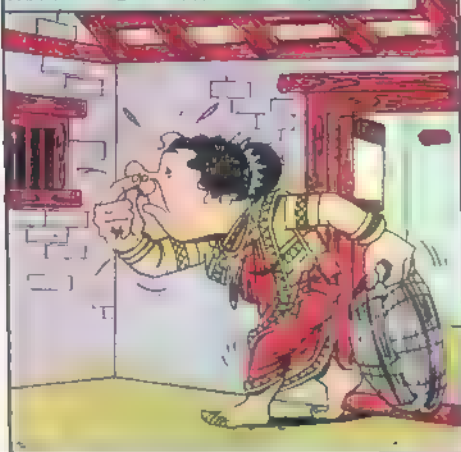




LATER WHEN IT WAS TIME TO GO TO BED —



THE FRIEND WENT OUT AND  
RETURNED WITH THE BASKET.

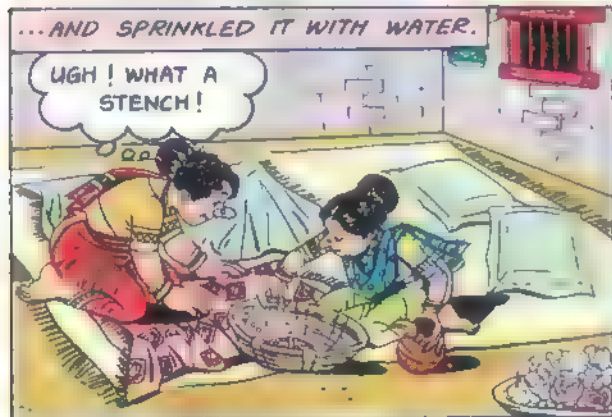


THE FISHWIFE TOOK IT...



...AND SPRINKLED IT WITH WATER.

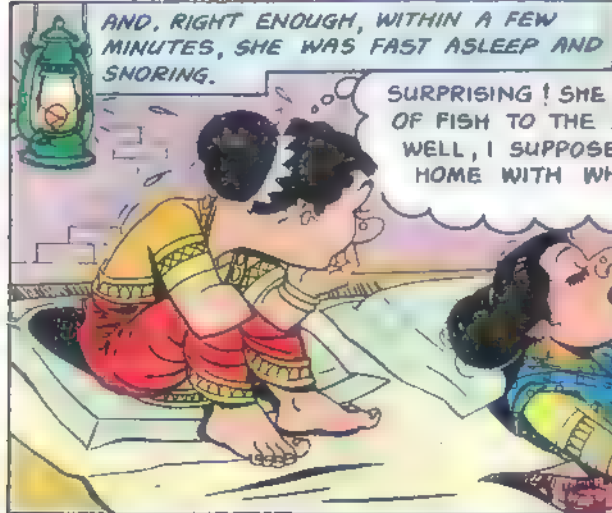
UGH! WHAT A  
STENCH!



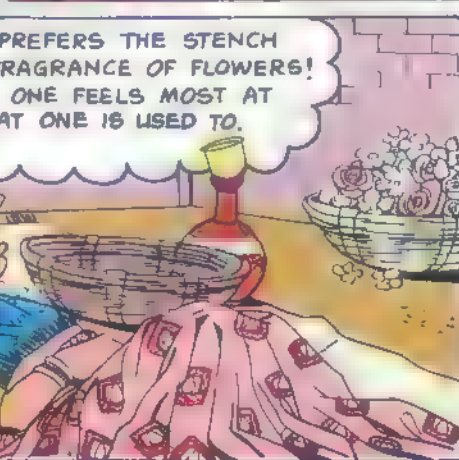
AH! THIS IS MUCH  
BETTER. NOW I SHALL  
SLEEP LIKE A LOG.



AND, RIGHT ENOUGH, WITHIN A FEW  
MINUTES, SHE WAS FAST ASLEEP AND  
SNORING.



SURPRISING! SHE PREFERS THE STENCH  
OF FISH TO THE FRAGRANCE OF FLOWERS!  
WELL, I SUPPOSE ONE FEELS MOST AT  
HOME WITH WHAT ONE IS USED TO.

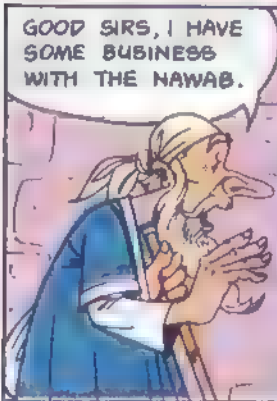
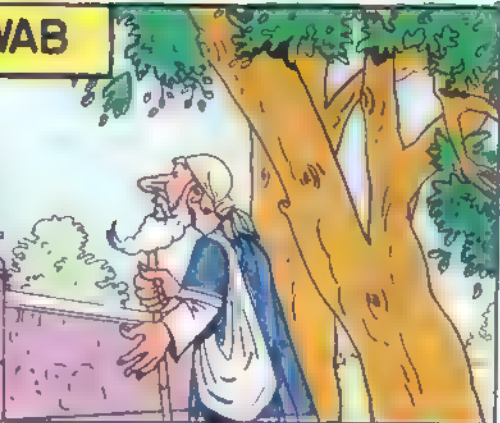




# THE HERMIT AND THE NAWAB



ONCE A HERMIT WENT TO THE PALACE OF A NAWAB TO BEG FOR ALMS.



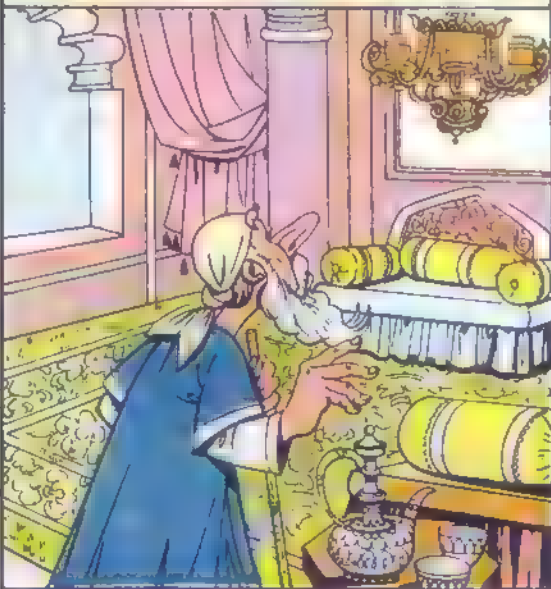
GOOD SIR, I HAVE SOME BUSINESS WITH THE NAWAB.



WALK STRAIGHT IN, HOLY ONE. YOU'LL FIND HIM IN THE PRAYER-ROOM.



THE HERMIT WALKED INTO THE PALACE...

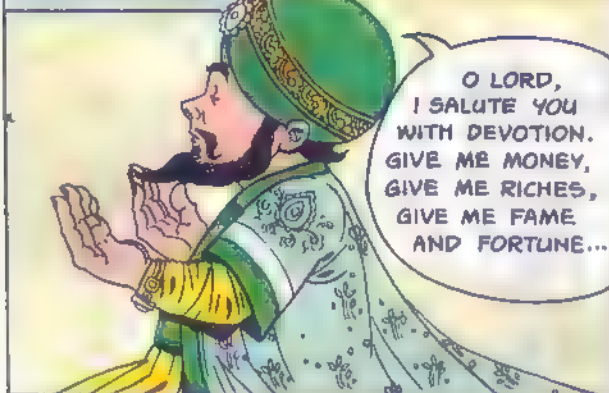


...AND UP TO THE PRAYER-ROOM.

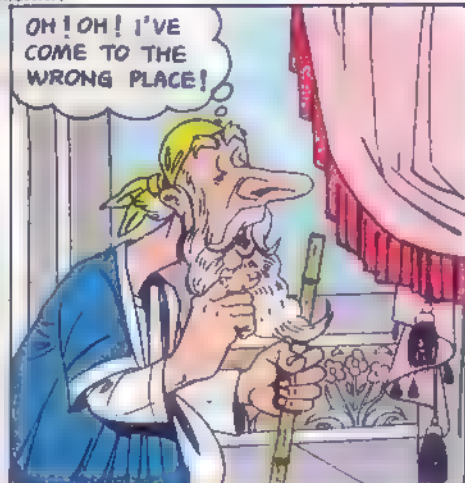


I'LL WAIT FOR HIM TO FINISH HIS PRAYERS.

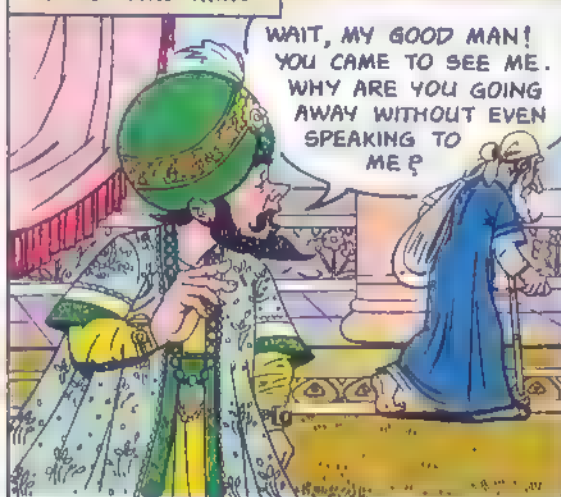
THE NAWAB ENDED HIS PRAYERS WITH THE USUAL REQUEST FOR PROSPERITY.



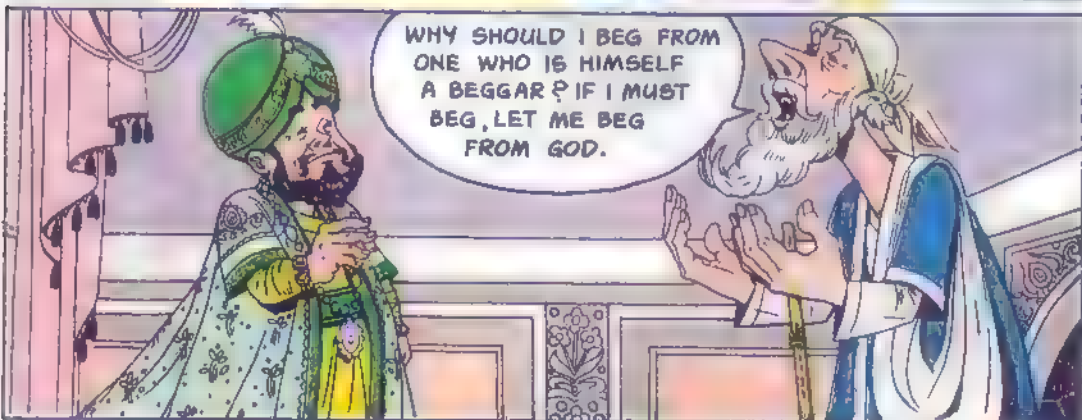
OH! OH! I'VE  
COME TO THE  
WRONG PLACE!



AS HE TURNED TO WALK AWAY, THE  
NAWAB SAW HIM.

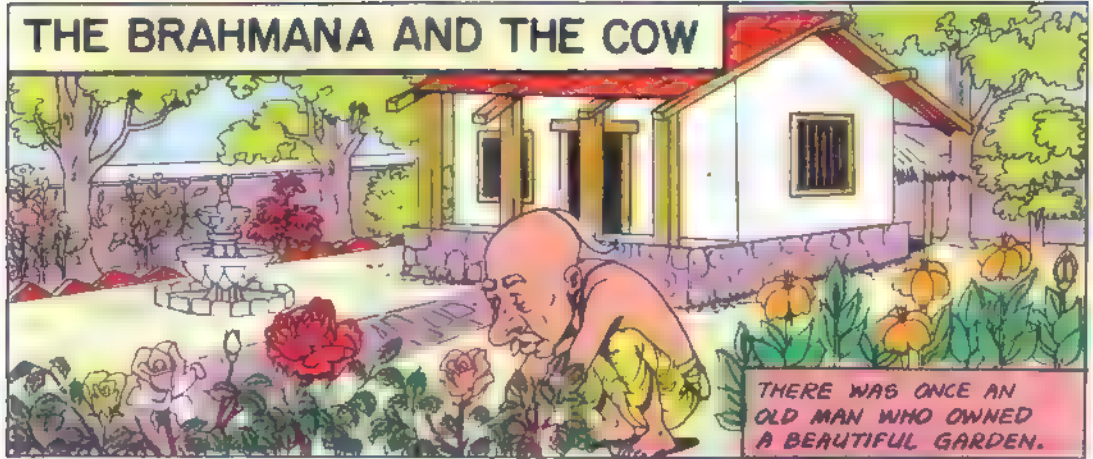


WHY SHOULD I BEG FROM  
ONE WHO IS HIMSELF  
A BEGGAR? IF I MUST  
BEG, LET ME BEG  
FROM GOD.



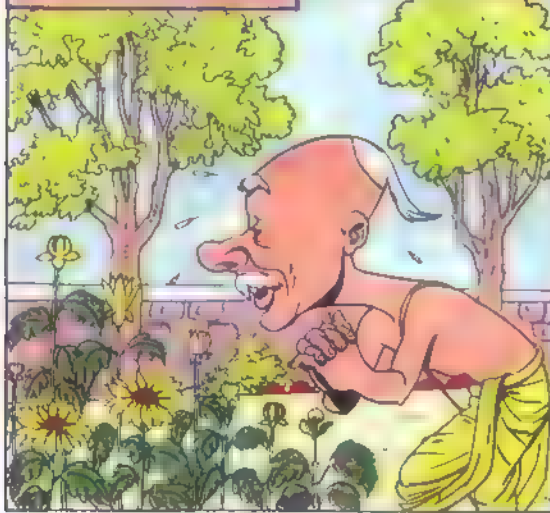


# THE BRAHMANA AND THE COW



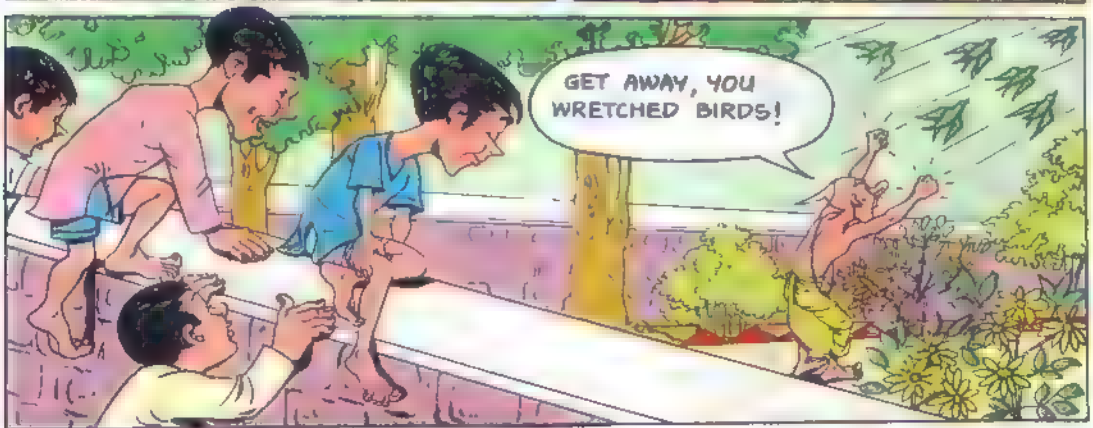
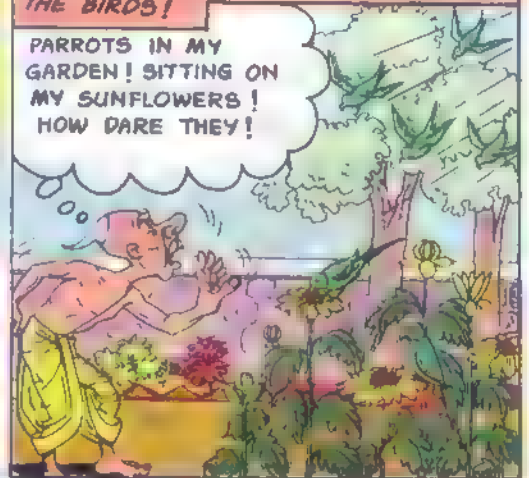
THERE WAS ONCE AN OLD MAN WHO OWNED A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN.

HE LOVED IT DEARLY AND SPENT A LOT OF TIME TENDING IT.



BUT HE WAS VERY SELFISH. HE DID NOT WANT TO SHARE HIS BEAUTIFUL GARDEN WITH ANYONE. NOT EVEN THE BIRDS!

PAROTS IN MY GARDEN! SITTING ON MY SUNFLOWERS! HOW DARE THEY!

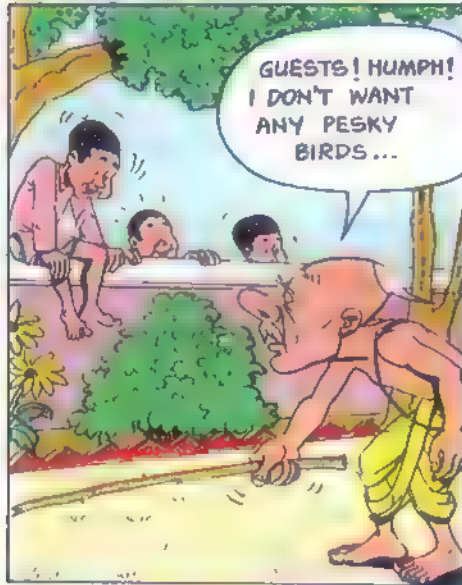


GET AWAY, YOU WRETCHED BIRDS!

THE MISCHIEVOUS BOYS OF THE VILLAGE LIKED TO TEASE THE OLD MAN.

BE A SPORT, SIR. PARROTS LOVE TO EAT SUNFLOWER SEEDS. WHY DID YOU SHOO THEM AWAY?

BESIDES, YOU ARE A BRAHMANA, SIR. YOU MUST NOT BE RUDE TO YOUR GUESTS.



GUESTS! HUMPH! I DON'T WANT ANY PESKY BIRDS...



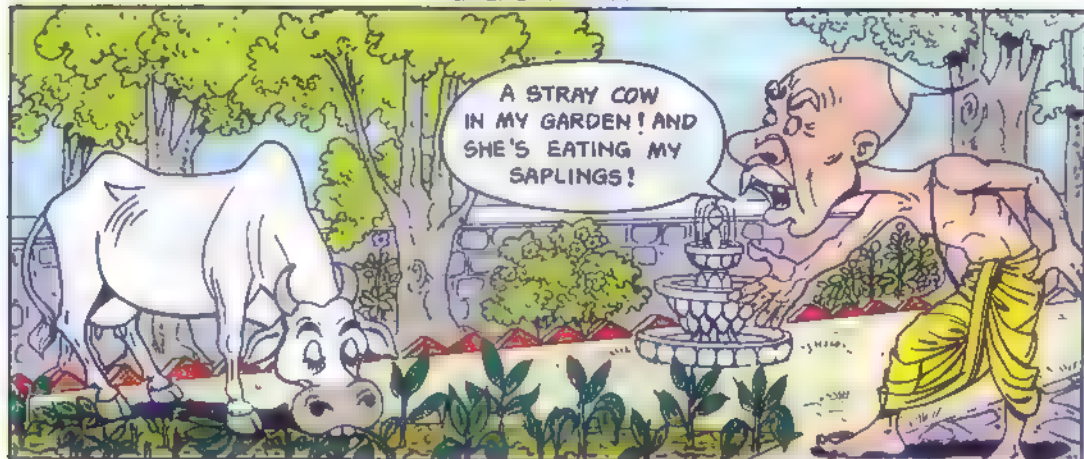
...OR BRATS IN OR NEAR MY GARDEN. RUN OFF! OFF WITH YOU!

AND SO THE DAYS WENT BY. THEN ONE DAY —

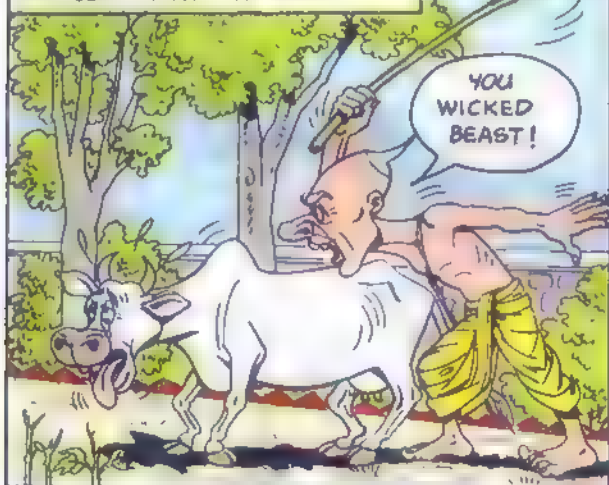
LET ME GO AND SEE HOW TALL MY MANGO SAPPLINGS HAVE GROWN.



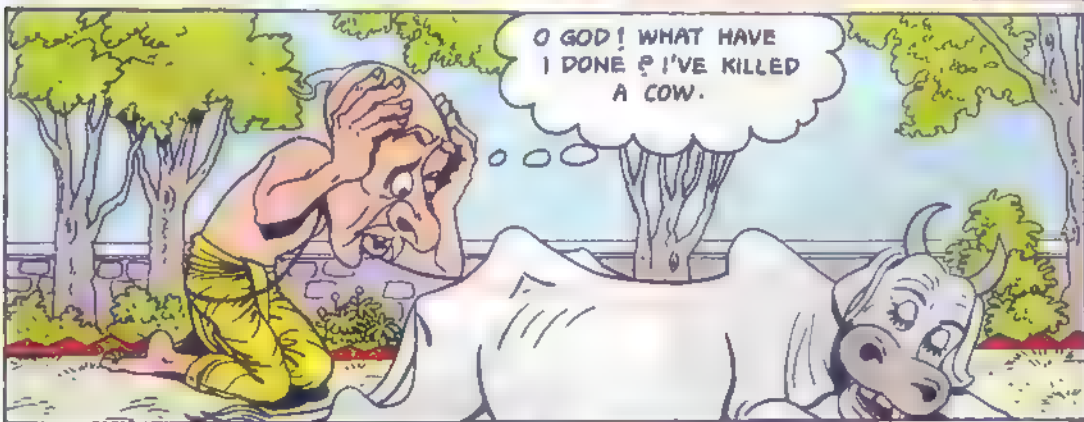
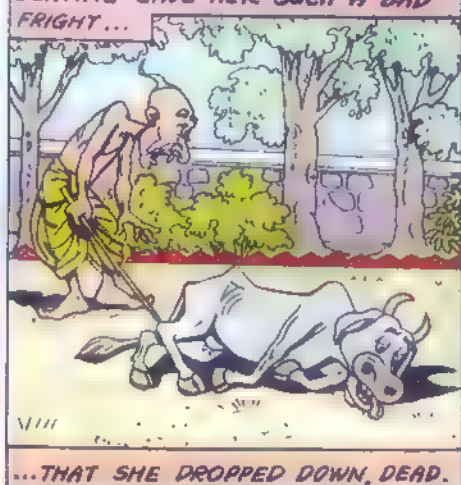




IN A FIT OF RAGE, THE BRAHMANA BEGAN TO BEAT THE COW WITH HIS STICK.



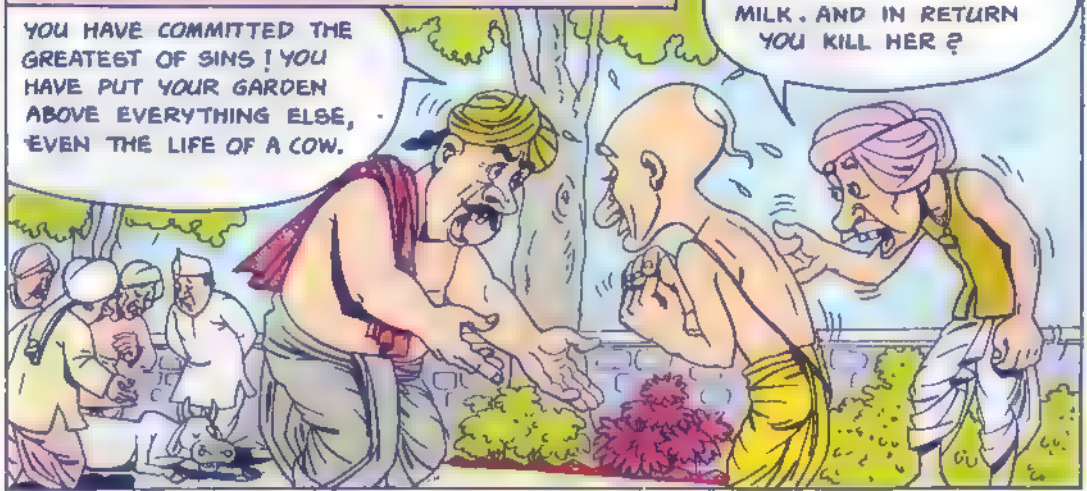
THE COW WAS ALREADY OLD, THIN AND HUNGRY. THE BRAHMANA'S BEATING GAVE HER SUCH A BAD FRIGHT...



THE BRAHMANA HAD TO FACE THE VILLAGERS WHO HAD COME TO KNOW OF WHAT HE HAD DONE.

YOU HAVE COMMITTED THE GREATEST OF SINS! YOU HAVE PUT YOUR GARDEN ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE, EVEN THE LIFE OF A COW.

THE COW GIVES US HER SWEET AND NOURISHING MILK. AND IN RETURN YOU KILL HER?



WHAT KIND OF HAND IS YOURS THAT IT CAN KILL A COW? WE'RE GOING NOW, BUT WE'LL SEE YOU LATER.



WHEN THE VILLAGERS LEFT —

THEY WILL THROW ME OUT OF THE VILLAGE. I'M SURE THEY WILL. WHAT SHALL I DO?

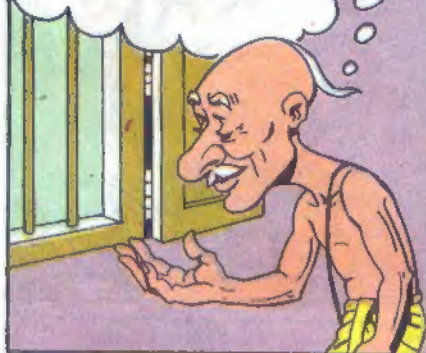


AH! I'VE GOT IT. IT WAS MY HAND THAT KILLED THE COW. AND LORD INDRA IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE PRESIDING DEITY OF THE HAND.

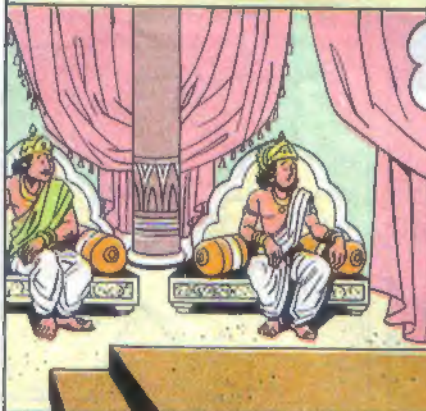




IF IT IS INDRA WHO  
GUIDES THE HAND,  
IT IS NOT I WHO KILLED  
THE COW, BUT HE! HE IS  
TO BLAME! YES, I'LL  
TELL THE VILLAGERS  
THAT.



THIS NEWS SPREAD LIKE WILD-  
FIRE, TILL IT REACHED THE  
EARS OF INDRA HIMSELF.



I'D BETTER ASSUME  
A DISGUISE AND GO  
AND SEE THIS  
BRAHMANA.



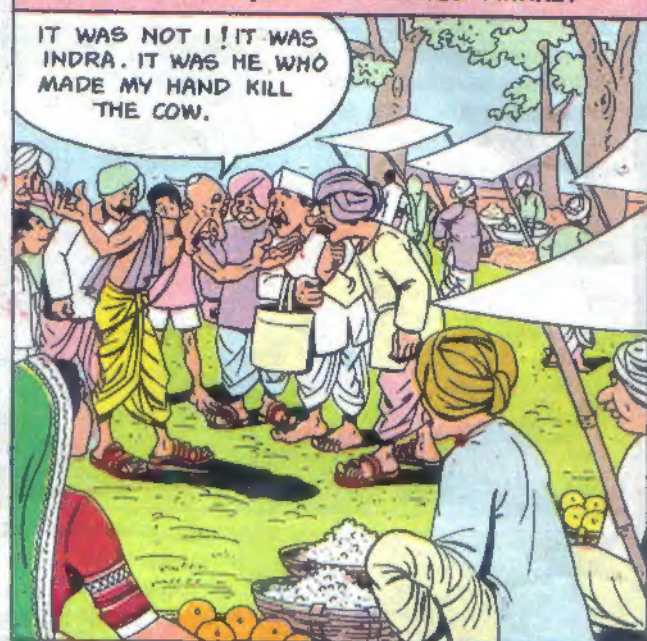
TAKING THE FORM OF AN OLD MAN,  
INDRA WALKED CASUALLY INTO  
THE BRAHMANA'S GARDEN.

SIR, I AM A STRANGER TO  
THIS TOWN. I WAS JUST  
PASSING THIS WAY AND  
COULDN'T HELP NOTICING  
YOUR GARDEN. IT IS  
VERY BEAUTIFUL.



SO THE NEXT DAY, AT THE VILLAGE MARKET —

IT WAS NOT I! IT WAS  
INDRA. IT WAS HE WHO  
MADE MY HAND KILL  
THE COW.





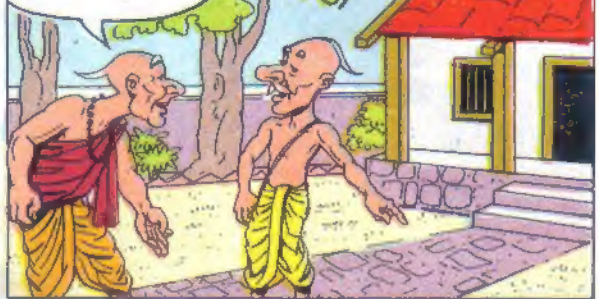
THE BRAHMANA WAS HIGHLY FLATTERED.

IT IS KIND OF YOU TO SAY SO, SIR. I HAVE TENDED IT AS IF IT WERE MY OWN CHILD.



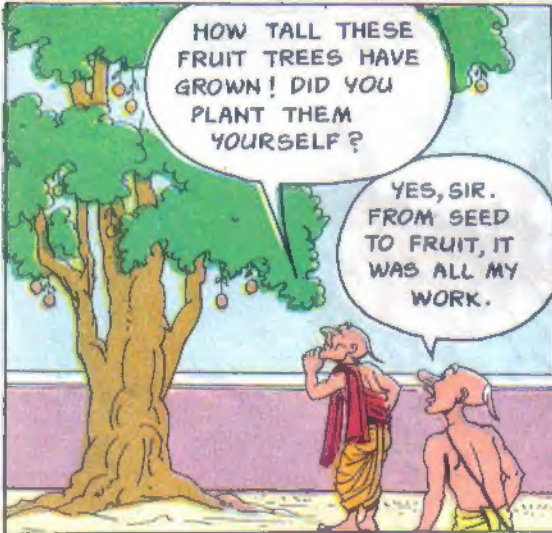
I CAN SEE THAT. HOW WELL THIS PATH HAS BEEN LAID! DID YOU LAY IT?

YES, SIR. I LAID IT MYSELF.



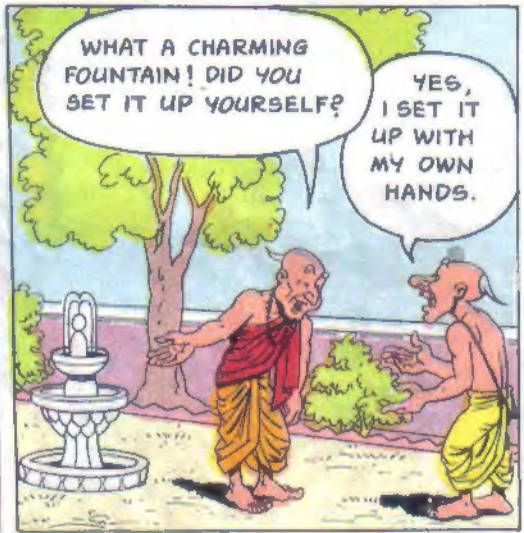
HOW TALL THESE FRUIT TREES HAVE GROWN! DID YOU PLANT THEM YOURSELF?

YES, SIR. FROM SEED TO FRUIT, IT WAS ALL MY WORK.



WHAT A CHARMING FOUNTAIN! DID YOU SET IT UP YOURSELF?

YES, I SET IT UP WITH MY OWN HANDS.



SUDDENLY, THE OLD MAN VANISHED AND INDRA HIMSELF STOOD BEFORE THE BRAHMANA.

O BRAHMANA, IF YOU TAKE THE CREDIT FOR SETTING UP YOUR GARDEN WITH YOUR HANDS, THEN YOU SHOULD TAKE THE BLAME FOR KILLING THE COW TOO! WHY BLAME POOR INDRA FOR THAT?







# AMAR CHITRA KATHA

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- 109 TACHOLI OTHERMAN
- 110 SULTANA RAZA

Acquaint your children with their cultural heritage

- 111 SATI & SHIVA
- 112 KRISHNA & RUKMINI
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- 114 GURU TEGH SAHADUR
- 115 PAREEKSHIT
- 116 KADAMBARI
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